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Legion

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May 2006 • Vol. 160, No. 5



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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Bud Coady

Harvard, 1979
USMC, 1979-89, 1991
Gulf War Veteran
Attorney at Law



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US DEBT TOPS \$8 TRILLION AS GOLD BLAZES PAST \$500/oz.

The war with terrorists and the liberation of Iraq continue to cost taxpayers countless dollars. Add to the equation over 7.7 million unemployed Americans, out of control government spending, the inability to balance the budget, and an insurmountable debt that tops \$8.1 trillion that grows each and every minute, and it is easy to see why it's harder than ever to obtain and maintain financial security. There is, however, good news. As predicted, the Gold Market is well on its way towards the \$2,000 an oz. mark. Further, it has outperformed most stocks for the past five years. In addition, the performance of CD's and savings accounts can't even come close to the gains that Gold has made. This is why now is the time to move paper assets into Gold. Catastrophic debt and floundering economies have proven to be the perfect breeding ground that sends Gold through the roof. Now that Gold has moved past the important \$500 per ounce level, it is crucial that individuals move fast because as soon as tomorrow, Gold could start its predicted rise from \$570 to \$2,000 per ounce. Do not be left behind while others gain from this market. Act now so you don't have any regrets later.

GOLD IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN MONEY IN THE BANK

If you had \$50,000 in the bank and you transferred it into gold at today's prices, you would now have an opportunity to gain as much as 5 times its value. That's right, a quarter of a million dollars. On the other hand, if you leave that same \$50,000 in the bank for 10 years, chances are, it's only going to be worth the same \$50,000. Unfortunately...but true. You must understand that when you convert money to Gold, you haven't spent your money, but have transferred its value from a declining paper currency, to a precious metal that is rising in both market and numismatic value. This is how the genius of owning Gold absolutely protects your money in today's very volatile market. A market where you can lose everything at any minute. Thousands of individuals have lost their entire fortunes overnight. Don't let it happen to you. The Gold Market is currently very explosive, and with predictions of its price rising past \$570 an ounce to \$2,000 an ounce, now is a great time to get in. Smart collectors are currently moving 10 - 20% of their assets into Gold. It's a great motivator for \$50,000 to be worth \$250,000.

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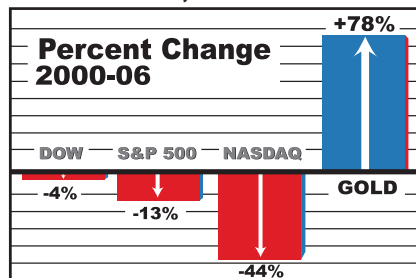
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**GOLD OUTPACES THE DOW,
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Trusting your financial future to the stock market's performance has been a bad situation for the past 5 years. In fact, the above graph clearly shows that the DOW, the S&P 500 and NASDAQ are all down from January 2000. Gold, on the other hand, is up 78% since January 2000. Let's put this into perspective. If you had purchased \$50,000 worth of Gold in January 2000, that same gold would be worth \$89,000 today - an increase of \$39,000! Amazingly, this does not even take into account the numismatic (collectible) value that gold coins have. Most stocks can't even come close to what the Gold Market has done. This market is on the move and is showing strong signs of moving to \$2,000 an ounce. Many experts can offer excellent insight into the future price trends of Gold, but no one, including The United States Rare Coin and Bullion Reserve, can guarantee a Gold Coin's future value will go up or down. Do not wait to move your hard earned money into Gold.

WHY TO BUY GOLD NOW

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- Smart individuals are moving 10-20% of their assets into U.S. Gov't Gold Coins.
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- \$50,000 in U.S. Gov't Gold Coins could be worth up to \$250,000 in the future.
- Now is the best time to take your money out of the bank and put it into U.S. Gov't Gold Coins in your same bank's safety deposit box.
- With the National Debt at \$8.1 trillion and rising, Gold has an upside potential that has not been seen since the 1980's.
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Don't mess with Armed Forces Radio



Sen. Tom Harkin says we are not being informed and are, in fact, being propagandized (Big Issues, March). Anyone who has spent more than a few minutes listening to Harkin understands what propaganda really is. This is from a man who claimed to be a Vietnam veteran until he couldn't produce any evidence of serving in Vietnam. He now claims to be a "Vietnam-era" veteran. The reason conservative talk radio occupies such a large portion of AFR's airtime is that it is what we service personnel want to hear. If we want to hear the so-called progressive talk shows we can listen to NPR or watch CNN.

I was deployed to Afghanistan in 2003 and am preparing to deploy again in a few months. I look forward to hearing my favorite conservative shows on AFR without interference from Sen. Harkin.

— Scott Weber, Polk City, Iowa

Sen. Tom Harkin wants more liberal content added to Armed Forces Radio, despite what the troops want. I wish someone in government would take the same interest in our mainstream print media. I am constantly inundated with liberal propaganda in my newspapers and newsmagazines. If I didn't receive my veterans and military publications, I'd be as clueless as most Americans are about places like Iraq, Gitmo, etc.

With most of our nation's universities churning out an endless supply of young socialists, and the entertainment industry saturating us with liberal pap for decades, it's no surprise so many Americans have such a skewed view of the world. The sheep are definitely running these institutions.

— Scott Anderson, Green Valley, Ariz.

Forcing Armed Forces Radio to ignore listeners' preferences and put some amount of "liberal" programming on the air smacks of government intervention in the free-market system. Talk about "just plain un-American." Censorship comes to mind.

Might I offer an alternative? Before you decide to mess with what our military personnel get to listen to, because it's what they want, practice here at home

by forcing National Public Broadcasting, in its various forms, to put conservative viewpoints in 50 percent of all of its broadcasts. This would most certainly provide "fairness and balance" to this media outlet, something heartily supported by most liberals and Democrats.

— Mort Gutman, Bethel, Conn.

'Poll Positions'

I see several glaring problems with the idea of U.S. leaders depending on polls to help them make decisions (March).

Polls negate the intent of both houses of Congress. Senators and representatives are elected from their states and districts to represent the people in those states and districts. Why bother voting for the people who believe as you do if they will vote not according to local wishes but the nation at large based on a poll?

Polls are not an accurate statistical representation of the population. Comparing them to a blood or water sample is bad science at best and wrong science at worst. The logical progression of this type of sampling is asking one person one question and doing a fractal analysis to decide the course of action the nation should take on any subject.

George Gallus was a salesman.

The polls of today are performed for economic benefit of the people who conduct the polls. His comment – "If democracy is supposed to be based on the will of the people, then somebody should go out and find out what that will is" – should raise red flags. That's what we elect representatives and senators for.

— Mark Lanz, Bothell, Wash.

Thank you for your solid article on polling. With more polls being conducted, it is important that voters gain a better understanding of them.

Unstated by the author is media's role in the proper reporting of survey findings. Of the sidebar on factors to consider in evaluating a poll, few are disclosed in news reports. That means the public can seldom determine that a study is credible. With the often-inept reports in the media, it is apparent that many reporters know little of analysis techniques or research methods. Soundbite journalism often leads to fragmentary disclosure of the findings or to unsupported conclusions.

This raises some questions. Is media's role to report the news or to create news by sponsoring polls? Does public disclosure of the findings of tracking studies unduly influence public opinion?

Granted, small samples are effective. Polls are often reported as having a margin of error of plus or minus a small percentage point range. This can mislead the reader to conclude that the findings are accurate or represent truth in the stated margin. Not so. These "errors" mean that if a survey used a probability sample and had been repeatedly conducted at the same time using the same methodology, warts included, there is a known probability the same answers would occur within the specified

When it comes to bad cholesterol— Ask your doctor if lower is better.

Getting high cholesterol down is important.

Doctors know lowering high cholesterol is important for everyone. But for some people, it's even more important. In fact, a panel of medical experts recently proposed updated guidelines suggesting many patients aim for an even lower cholesterol goal than before.*

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If, after all you've tried—including diet and exercise—your doctor believes you need to get your bad cholesterol even lower, ask whether CRESTOR might help.

Aim lower.

CRESTOR may make the difference you need. In fact, the 10-mg dose of CRESTOR, along with diet, can lower bad cholesterol by as much as 52% (vs 7% with placebo). That means your LDL-C—the bad cholesterol—could go down about half. Your results may vary.

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Here is important safety information about CRESTOR you need to know.

CRESTOR is prescribed along with diet for lowering high cholesterol and has not been determined to prevent heart disease, heart attacks, or strokes. CRESTOR is not right for everyone, including women who are nursing, pregnant, or who may become pregnant, or anyone with liver problems. Your doctor will do blood tests before and during treatment with CRESTOR to monitor your liver function. Unexplained muscle pain and weakness could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect and should be reported to your doctor right away. The 40-mg dose of CRESTOR is only for patients who do not reach goal on 20 mg. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are taking any medications. Side effects occur infrequently and include muscle aches, constipation, weakness, abdominal pain, and nausea. They are usually mild and tend to go away.

**If your doctor says,
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Please read this summary carefully and then ask your doctor about CRESTOR. No advertisement can provide all the information needed to determine if a drug is right for you. This advertisement does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. Only your doctor has the training to weigh the risks and benefits of a prescription drug.

BRIEF SUMMARY: For full Prescribing Information, see package insert. **INDICATIONS AND USAGE** CRESTOR is indicated: 1. as an adjunct to diet to reduce elevated total-C, LDL-C, ApoB, nonHDL-C, and TG levels and to increase HDL-C in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and nonfamilial) and mixed dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Type IIa and IIb); 2. as an adjunct to diet for the treatment of patients with elevated serum TG levels (Fredrickson Type IV); 3. to reduce LDL-C, total-C, and ApoB in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g., LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable. **CONTRAINDICATIONS** CRESTOR is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to any component of this product. Rosuvastatin is contraindicated in patients with active liver disease or with unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases (see WARNINGS, Liver Enzymes). **Pregnancy and Lactation** Atherosclerosis is a chronic process and discontinuation of lipid-lowering drugs during pregnancy should have little impact on the outcome of long-term therapy of primary hypercholesterolemia. Cholesterol and other products of cholesterol biosynthesis are essential components for fetal development (including synthesis of steroids and cell membranes). Since HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors decrease cholesterol synthesis and possibly the synthesis of other biologically active substances derived from cholesterol, they may cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women. Therefore, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors are contraindicated during pregnancy and in nursing mothers. ROSUVASTATIN SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED TO WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE ONLY WHEN SUCH PATIENTS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO CONCEIVE AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS. If the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, therapy should be discontinued immediately and the patient apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus. **WARNINGS** **Liver Enzymes** HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, like some other lipid-lowering therapies, have been associated with biochemical abnormalities of liver function. The incidence of persistent elevations (>3 times the upper limit of normal [ULN]) occurring on 2 or more consecutive occasions) in serum transaminases in fixed dose studies was 0.4, 0, 0, and 0.1% in patients who received rosuvastatin 5, 10, 20, and 40 mg, respectively. In most cases, the elevations were transient and resolved or improved on continued therapy or after a brief interruption in therapy. There were two cases of jaundice, for which a relationship to rosuvastatin therapy could not be determined, which resolved after discontinuation of therapy. There were no cases of liver failure or irreversible liver disease in these trials. It is recommended that liver function tests be performed before and at 12 weeks following both the initiation of therapy and any elevation of dose, and periodically (e.g., semiannually) thereafter. Liver enzyme changes generally occur in the first 3 months of treatment with rosuvastatin. Patients who develop increased transaminase levels should be monitored until the abnormalities have resolved. Should an increase in ALT or AST of >3 times ULN persist, reduction of dose or withdrawal of rosuvastatin is recommended. Rosuvastatin should be used with caution in patients who consume substantial quantities of alcohol and/or have a history of liver disease (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Hepatic Insufficiency). Active liver disease or unexplained persistent transaminase elevations are contraindications to the use of rosuvastatin (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). **Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis** Rare cases of rhabdomyolysis with acute renal failure secondary to myoglobinuria have been reported with rosuvastatin and with other drugs in this class. Uncomplicated myopathy has been reported in rosuvastatin-treated patients (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). Creatine kinase (CK) elevations >10 times upper limit of normal) occurred in 0.2% to 0.4% of patients taking rosuvastatin at doses up to 40 mg in clinical studies. Treatment-related myopathy, defined as muscle aches or muscle weakness in conjunction with increases in CK values >10 times upper limit of normal, was reported in up to 0.1% of patients taking rosuvastatin doses of up to 40 mg in clinical studies. In clinical trials, the incidence of myopathy and rhabdomyolysis increased at doses of rosuvastatin above the recommended dosage range (5 to 40 mg). In post-marketing experience, effects on skeletal muscle, e.g., uncomplicated myopathy, myopathy and, rarely, rhabdomyolysis have been reported in patients treated with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors including rosuvastatin. As with other HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, reports of rhabdomyolysis with rosuvastatin are rare, but higher at the highest marketed dose (40 mg). Factors that may predispose patients to myopathy with HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors include advanced age (>65 years), hypothyroidism, and renal insufficiency. Consequently, 1. Rosuvastatin should be prescribed with caution in patients with predisposing factors for myopathy, such as, renal impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION), advanced age, and inadequately treated hypothyroidism. 2. Patients should be advised to promptly report unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly if accompanied by malaise or fever. Rosuvastatin therapy should be discontinued if markedly elevated CK levels occur or myopathy is diagnosed or suspected. 3. The 40 mg dose of rosuvastatin is reserved only for those patients who have not achieved their LDL-C goal utilizing the 20 mg dose of rosuvastatin once daily (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). 4. The risk of myopathy during treatment with rosuvastatin may be increased with concurrent administration of other lipid-lowering therapies or cyclosporine, (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Drug Interactions, PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). The benefit of further alterations in lipid levels by the combined use of rosuvastatin with fibrates or niacin should be carefully weighed against the potential risks of this combination. Combination therapy with rosuvastatin and gemfibrozil should generally be avoided. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). 5. The risk of myopathy during treatment with rosuvastatin may be increased in circumstances which increase rosuvastatin drug levels (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Race and Renal Insufficiency, and PRECAUTIONS, General). 6. Rosuvastatin therapy should also be temporarily withheld in any patient with an acute, serious condition suggestive of myopathy or predisposing to the development of renal failure secondary to rhabdomyolysis (e.g., sepsis, hypotension, dehydration, major surgery, trauma, severe metabolic, endocrine, and electrolyte disorders, or uncontrolled seizures). **PRECAUTIONS** **General** Before instituting therapy with rosuvastatin, an attempt should be made to control hypercholesterolemia with appropriate diet and exercise, weight reduction in obese patients, and treatment of underlying medical problems (see INDICATIONS AND USAGE). Administration of rosuvastatin 20 mg to patients with severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} <30 mL/min/1.73 m²) resulted in a 3-fold increase in plasma concentrations of rosuvastatin compared with healthy volunteers (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). The result of a large pharmacokinetic study conducted in the US demonstrated an approximate 2-fold elevation in median exposure in Asian subjects (having either Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese or Asian-Indian origin) compared with a Caucasian control group. This increase should be considered when making rosuvastatin dosing decisions for Asian patients. (See WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis; CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Race, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). **Information for Patients** Patients should be advised to report promptly unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly if accompanied by malaise or fever. When taking rosuvastatin with an aluminum and magnesium hydroxide combination antacid, the antacid should be taken at least 2 hours after rosuvastatin administration (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Drug Interactions). **Laboratory Tests** In the rosuvastatin clinical trial program, dipstick-positive proteinuria and microscopic hematuria were observed among rosuvastatin-treated patients, predominantly in patients dosed above the recommended dose range (i.e., 80 mg). However, this finding was more frequent in patients taking rosuvastatin 40 mg, when compared to lower doses of rosuvastatin or comparator studies, though it was generally transient and was not associated with worsening renal function. Although the clinical significance of this finding is unknown, a dose reduction should be considered for patients on rosuvastatin 40 mg therapy with unexplained persistent proteinuria during routine urinalysis testing. **Drug Interactions** **Cyclosporine:** When rosuvastatin 10 mg was coadministered with cyclosporine in cardiac transplant patients, rosuvastatin mean C_{max} and mean AUC were increased 11-fold and 7-fold, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. These increases are considered to be clinically significant and require special consideration in the dosing of rosuvastatin to patients taking

concomitant cyclosporine (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). **Warfarin:** Coadministration of rosuvastatin to patients on stable warfarin therapy resulted in clinically significant rises in INR (>4, baseline 2-3). In patients taking coumarin anticoagulants and rosuvastatin concomitantly, INR should be determined before starting rosuvastatin and frequently enough during early therapy to ensure that no significant alteration of INR occurs. Once a stable INR has been documented, INR can be monitored at the intervals usually recommended for patients on coumarin anticoagulants. If the dose of rosuvastatin is changed, the same procedure should be repeated. Rosuvastatin therapy has not been associated with bleeding or with changes in INR in patients not taking anticoagulants. **Gemfibrozil:** Coadministration of a single rosuvastatin dose to healthy volunteers on gemfibrozil (600 mg twice daily) resulted in a 2.2- and 1.9-fold, respectively, increase in mean C_{max} and mean AUC of rosuvastatin (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). **Endocrine Function** Although clinical studies have shown that rosuvastatin alone does not reduce basal plasma cortisol concentration or impair adrenal reserve, caution should be exercised if any HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or other agent used to lower cholesterol levels is administered concomitantly with drugs that may decrease the levels or activity of endogenous steroid hormones such as ketconazole, spironolactone, and cimetidine. **CNS Toxicity** CNS vascular lesions, characterized by perivascular hemorrhages, edema, and mononuclear cell infiltration of perivascular spaces, have been observed in dogs treated with several other members of this drug class. A chemically similar drug in this class produced dose-dependent optic nerve degeneration (Wallenian degeneration of retinogeniculate fibers) in dogs, at a dose that produced plasma drug levels about 30 times higher than the mean drug level in humans taking the highest recommended dose. Edema, hemorrhage, and partial necrosis in the interstitium of the choroid plexus was observed in a female dog sacrificed moribund at day 24 at 90 mg/kg/day by oral gavage (systemic exposures 100 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons). Corneal opacity was seen in dogs treated for 52 weeks at 6 mg/kg/day by oral gavage (systemic exposures 20 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons). Cataracts were seen in dogs treated for 12 weeks by oral gavage at 30 mg/kg/day (systemic exposures 60 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons). Retinal dysplasia and retinal loss were seen in dogs treated for 4 weeks by oral gavage at 90 mg/kg/day (systemic exposures 100 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC). Doses <30 mg/kg/day (systemic exposures <60 times the human exposure at 40 mg/day based on AUC comparisons) following treatment up to one year, did not reveal retinal findings. **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility** In a 104-week carcinogenicity study in rats at dose levels of 2, 20, 60, or 80 mg/kg/day by oral gavage, the incidence of uterine stromal polyps was significantly increased in females at 80 mg/kg/day at

Adverse Experiences Adverse experiences, regardless of causality assessment, reported in ≥2% of patients in placebo-controlled clinical studies of rosuvastatin are shown in Table 1; discontinuations due to adverse events in these studies of up to 12 weeks duration occurred in 3% of patients on rosuvastatin and 5% on placebo.

Table 1. Adverse Events in Placebo-Controlled Studies

Adverse event	Rosuvastatin N=744	Placebo N=382
Pharyngitis	9.0	7.6
Headache	5.5	5.0
Diarrhea	3.4	2.9
Dyspepsia	3.4	3.1
Nausea	3.4	3.1
Myalgia	2.8	1.3
Asthenia	2.7	2.6
Back pain	2.6	2.4
Flu syndrome	2.3	1.8
Urinary tract infection	2.3	1.6
Rhinitis	2.2	2.1
Sinusitis	2.0	1.8

In addition, the following adverse events were reported, regardless of causality assessment, in ≥1% of 10,275 patients treated with rosuvastatin in clinical studies. The events in *italics* occurred in ≥2% of these patients. **Body as a Whole:** *Abdominal pain, accidental injury, chest pain, infection, pain, pelvic pain, and neck pain.* **Cardiovascular System:** *Hypertension, angina pectoris, vasodilatation, and palpitation.* **Digestive System:** *Constipation, gastroenteritis, vomiting, flatulence, periodontal abscess, and gastritis.* **Endocrine:** *Diabetes mellitus.* **Hemic and Lymphatic System:** *Anemia and ecchymosis.* **Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders:** *Peripheral edema.* **Musculoskeletal System:** *Arthritis, arthralgia, and pathological fracture.* **Nervous System:** *Dizziness, insomnia, hypertension, paraesthesia, depression, anxiety, vertigo, and neuralgia.* **Respiratory System:** *Bronchitis, cough increased, dyspnea, pneumonia, and asthma.* **Skin and Appendages:** *Rash and pruritus.* **Laboratory Abnormalities:** In the rosuvastatin clinical trial program, dipstick-positive proteinuria and microscopic hematuria were observed among rosuvastatin-treated patients, predominantly in patients dosed above the recommended dose range (i.e., 80 mg). However, this finding was more frequent in patients taking rosuvastatin 40 mg, when compared to lower doses of rosuvastatin or comparator studies, though it was generally transient and was not associated with worsening renal function. (See PRECAUTIONS, Laboratory Tests.) Other abnormal laboratory values reported were elevated creatinine phosphokinase, transaminases, hyperglycemia, glutamyl transpeptidase, alkaline phosphatase, bilirubin, and thyroid function abnormalities. Other adverse events reported less frequently than 1% in the rosuvastatin clinical study program, regardless of causality assessment, included arrhythmia, hepatitis, hyper-sensitivity reactions (i.e., face edema, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, vesiculobullous rash, urticaria, and angioedema), kidney failure, syncope, myasthenia, myositis, pancreatitis, photosensitivity reaction, myopathy, and rhabdomyolysis. **Postmarketing Experience** In addition to the events reported above, as with other drugs in this class, the following event has been reported during post-marketing experience with CRESTOR, regardless of causality assessment: very rare cases of jaundice. **OVERDOSAGE** There is no specific treatment in the event of overdose. In the event of overdose, the patient should be treated symptomatically and supportive measures instituted as required. Hemodialysis does not significantly enhance clearance of rosuvastatin. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** The patient should be placed on a standard cholesterol-lowering diet before receiving CRESTOR and should continue on this diet during treatment. CRESTOR can be administered as a single dose at any time of day, with or without food. **Hypercholesterolemia (Heterozygous Familial and Nonfamilial) and Mixed Dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Type IIa and IIb)** The dose range for CRESTOR is 5 to 40 mg once daily. Therapy with CRESTOR should be individualized according to goal of therapy and response. The usual recommended starting dose of CRESTOR is 10 mg once daily. However, initiation of therapy with 5 mg once daily should be considered for patients requiring less aggressive LDL-C reductions, who have predisposing factors for myopathy, and as noted below for special populations such as patients taking cyclosporine, Asian patients, and patients with severe renal insufficiency (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Race, and Renal Insufficiency, and Drug Interactions). For patients with marked hypercholesterolemia (LDL-C >190 mg/dL) and aggressive lipid targets, a 20-mg starting dose may be considered. After initiation and/or upon titration of CRESTOR, lipid levels should be analyzed within 2 to 4 weeks and dosage adjusted accordingly. The 40-mg dose of CRESTOR is reserved only for those patients who have not achieved their LDL-C goal utilizing the 20 mg dose of CRESTOR once daily (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis). When initiating statin therapy or switching from another statin therapy, the appropriate CRESTOR starting dose should first be utilized, and only then titrated according to the patient's individualized goal of therapy. **Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia** The recommended starting dose of CRESTOR is 20 mg once daily in patients with homozygous FH. The maximum recommended daily dose is 40 mg. CRESTOR should be used in these patients as an adjunct to other lipid-lowering treatments (e.g., LDL apheresis) or if such treatments are unavailable. Response to therapy should be estimated from pre-apheresis LDL-C levels. **Dosage in Asian Patients** Initiation of CRESTOR therapy with 5 mg once daily should be considered for Asian patients. The potential for increased systemic exposures relative to Caucasians is relevant when considering escalation of dose in cases where hypercholesterolemia is not adequately controlled at doses of 5, 10, or 20 mg once daily. (See WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis; CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Race, and PRECAUTIONS, General). **Dosage in Patients Taking Cyclosporine** In patients taking cyclosporine, therapy should be limited to CRESTOR 5 mg once daily (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis, and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). **Concomitant Lipid-Lowering Therapy** The effect of CRESTOR on LDL-C and total-C may be enhanced when used in combination with a bile acid binding resin. If CRESTOR is used in combination with gemfibrozil, the dose of CRESTOR should be limited to 10 mg once daily (see WARNINGS, Myopathy/Rhabdomyolysis, and PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). **Dosage in Patients With Renal Insufficiency** No modification of dosage is necessary for patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency. For patients with severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} <30 mL/min/1.73 m²) not on hemodialysis, dosing of CRESTOR should be started at 5 mg once daily and not to exceed 10 mg once daily (see PRECAUTIONS, General, and CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations, Renal Insufficiency).

NOTE: This summary provides important information about CRESTOR. For more information, please ask your doctor or health care professional about the full Prescribing Information and discuss it with them.

Rx only

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range in 95 percent of the instances. That simply means findings can be replicated, regardless of quality. It only relates to the sampling and has nothing to do with the layman's interpretation of accuracy. For instance, a study conducted among a properly designed probability sample could have poorly phrased questions or poorly supervised interviewers, producing nonsense answers.

— John J. Watson, Raleigh, N.C.

I read with skepticism the piece by the Gallup editor. While he was a bit more frank than I expected, he certainly touched lightly on two great weaknesses: polls are at least as often wrong as right (“Dewey Beats Truman”), and it somehow got out years ago that “at least” 40 percent of those called decline to answer questions (including me). What effect does that have on accuracy of results? What kind of persons are eager, or at least willing, to get involved? Not anyone I know.

Pollsters typically spout voodoo about how we're too stupid to understand their occult ways, like lawyers spouting Latin to mask their incompetence.

— Bernard M. Kostelnik,
Jensen Beach, Fla.

Importing enemies

“The Enemy Within” and “On the Border” (March) should be an alert to every veteran in America. We are importing the people who will try to bring America down. We need to stop all immigration except political refugees. This country was earned by people willing to lay down their lives and is kept

afloat by brave men and women today. Our foreign enemies are legion. We can deal with them one by one, but why bring them inside our borders?

— Graham R. Sutton, Lonoke, Ark.

Bigger fish

I find it ironic that you ran an article touting the F-22 Raptor in the same issue as “A Taste for Pork” without connecting the two (March). A decade late and billions of dollars over cost, we have a plane. Next time you look at government waste, there are much bigger fish.

— Douglas S. Hempe, Butler, Tenn.

‘A Plan to Destroy America’

Richard Lamm is right on target (Rapid Fire, March). Sometimes I am at odds with members of my church on this very topic. They use the metaphor “tossed salad” and proclaim that we must “embrace diversity.” The very word “diversity” means a condition of division. How can there be unity in diversity?

Two years ago I went to Tanzania, Africa, and on many occasions I was told by the people that the greatest thing their first president did was unite the country with one common language. Tanzania had more than 40 languages and dialects when it gained independence. Now Swahili is the national language. Compare Tanzania to other African countries divided by language and culture. Many have become ethnic killing grounds where whole villages have been murdered. Tanzania has never had a modern civil war along cultural lines.

My grandparents came from

Germany, Holland, Scotland and Greece. I still remember my Greek grandmother saying, “No one will speak Greek, only English, because we are Americans first.” All of my family embraced this concept. Yes, they had to learn a new language and give up some cultural customs, but they did so willingly because they were Americans first.

— Doug Thompson, Solon, Iowa

Gov. Lamm is absolutely correct when he says anyone who celebrates diversity is celebrating the demise of this once-great nation. We are very quickly becoming a polyglot of languages and Third World cultures. Teddy Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy, sponsors of the Immigration Reform Act of 1965, did what the Japanese, Germans, communists and anyone else could not do. They destroyed this country.

— Wayne Otto, Livonia, Mich.

7

‘Budget Bust of 2005’

I find it amazing that the new House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman says that serving non-service connected veterans is killing his budget and that VA needs to be run as a business (February). He is correct, but VA is a business that defies the model. Funding is given by an outside resource. The “business” is a service to all.

Mr. Chairman, in a real business, political favors don't make you CEO. In a real business, Congress doesn't directly hand you money for poor performance. In a real business, downsizing applies to management, not customers.

— Tim Deneke, Lakewood, Ohio

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 • magazine@legion.org

They just don't get it

Public opinion polls consistently show that the men and women of the U.S. military are held in the highest esteem by a grateful nation. At the same time, most Americans are not particularly fond of terrorists. Yet amazingly, many give credence to complaints by terrorists, detainee lawyers, U.N. bureaucrats and so-called human-rights groups that somehow our treatment of enemy combatants detained at Guantanamo Bay is cruel or even tantamount to torture.

Unlike U.N. inspectors who wrote a much-publicized but nonetheless foolish report on the issue, I actually have visited Guantanamo. I toured Camp Delta, spoke with guards and interrogators, ate the same food detainees ate and visited detainee medical facilities. If I could find any fault, it's that we are too kind.

Did you have steak and eggs for breakfast? How about three medical exams this week? Have you had time to play soccer, checkers or read a library book? Guantanamo detainees have all of these options. Granted, some of the recreational privileges depend on compliant behavior, but the excellent cuisine and health care is extended to even the most hardened and uncooperative terrorist. The detainees often enjoy the meals and show their appreciation by hurling "Gitmo cocktails" – a blend of dangerously disgusting DNA samples – at the guards.

Yet professional litigators, who do not have access to classified information, insist that detainees be tried in open courts or released. They just don't get it. Prior to 9/11, the United States treated terrorism as a traditional law-enforcement problem. It didn't work.

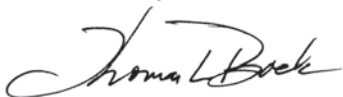
"American prisoners generally are not trying to kill the guards," says Maj. Tim O'Reilly, a Guantanamo spokesman with experience in civilian corrections. "Culturally, the people here don't have the same bent. They see themselves as combatants."

If a guard abuses a detainee, he or she will be severely disciplined. Even when assaulted by the detainee, the guard is only permitted to take the steps necessary to stop the assault.

The man in charge of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, is justifiably proud of the professionals under him. "You read articles about beatings and torture and nothing could be further from the truth," he says. "These stories are coming from lawyers representing detainees. We have given access to hundreds of media and government agencies."

Public division about the Iraq war should not spill over into the debate about Guantanamo, where most of the detainees were captured fighting for the Taliban or al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. None are held in relation to Operation Iraqi Freedom. "The vast majority of the people who are in Guantanamo are being held under the typical laws of war," says John Bellinger, a State Department legal adviser. "When we went into Afghanistan with the coalition, that was clearly a state of international armed conflict in Afghanistan, and clearly the laws of war would apply."

The American Legion supports the war on terrorism. Resolution 169, passed at our last national convention, includes operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of that war. In order to win this war, we need a safe, secure and humane place to detain the enemy. Guantanamo is that place.



Chase Studios

National Commander
Thomas L. Bock

MEMORANDA

'SALUTE OUR HEROES'

The American Legion and *The New York Times* Job Market will launch a partnership to connect job-seeking veterans and the spouses of active-duty personnel with hiring employers May 17 at Chicago's Navy Pier. The event, called "Salute Our Heroes: The Veterans Job Fair and Career Expo," is the first in a series of similar efforts planned in 2006. Others include Boston on June 13, Tampa, Fla., on July 11, and New York City on Nov. 6. Dozens of companies will have booths and take applications at the event. Visit www.nytimes.com/saluteourheroes on the Web to pre-register or to post a resumé online.

SPRING MEETINGS

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion gathers May 8-11 in Indianapolis for annual spring meetings.

ARMED FORCES DAY

On May 20, men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces are honored at community events and observations across the nation. The special day of combined recognition for all branches began May 20, 1950. Prior to that, each branch had its own day of celebration.

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New Medicare drug program



SUPPORT

Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

■ Frist, a heart and lung surgeon who has performed more than 150 transplants, is the Senate majority leader.



OPPOSE

Rep. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

■ Sanders, an independent congressman, is a founder of the House Progressive Caucus.

We are now two months into the most significant change in Medicare since it began 40 years ago. We have seen progress and some problems. But the Medicare prescription-drug plan continues to be a great benefit for seniors. More than 25 million Americans now have prescription-drug coverage, and hundreds of thousands more enroll each week.

The new program is showing real savings. Each day more beneficiaries pay far less for their medications than before.

Seniors annually will spend about half of what they were spending on prescription drugs. The prescription-drug program also is driving down costs for taxpayers. The latest reports on the cost of drugs under the prescription-drug plan show that market competition is helping reduce costs.

Any new program of this magnitude will have some start-up issues. While it is true that some seniors have had trouble with their prescriptions, I have been in constant contact with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure that seniors do not leave pharmacies empty-handed, states are reimbursed and pharmacists receive additional help. By working closely with the administration, prescription-drug plans, pharmacists and others, we have been able to identify issues that need addressed. As a result, call centers have increased staff, improved the speed of computer systems used to check a beneficiary's enrollment and established a system to reimburse states for costs they have had to cover.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt recently said the measure of our success "should be that all seniors have problem-free access to coverage that saves them money, keeps them healthier and gives them peace of mind." I agree. And I will continue to ensure this program's success.

Since the implementation of the Medicare prescription-drug program, my office has been swamped with calls from seniors who are confused, disappointed and angry. Rather than offering low-cost, comprehensive coverage, the

Republican leadership's plan leaves seniors with huge gaps in coverage and forces them to decipher confusing plans with different rules, premiums and coverage.

Many seniors have found their coverage held up

because pharmacists are overwhelmed by the complex program. Dozens of states have been forced to institute emergency measures to ensure low-income beneficiaries can get their medicines.

This program was created by and for the pharmaceutical and insurance lobbyists. As a result, it provides inadequate benefits for seniors at an unnecessarily high cost to taxpayers. It also ensures costs stay high by forbidding Medicare from negotiating lower prices for seniors.

Legislation I introduced would replace the current program with comprehensive coverage at the same or lower cost. Seniors would pay a \$25 monthly premium. The program would pay 80 percent of their prescription costs. Period.

We can afford a comprehensive benefit if we are serious about lowering the outrageously high price of medicines. That means using the bulk purchasing power of the federal government to negotiate lower costs, just like every big company does. And it means allowing FDA safety-approved medicines to be reimported from highly regulated countries like Canada. But the will to stand up to the drug giants is sorely lacking in a Congress and a White House where wealthy special interests literally authored the horrendous program that seniors continue to struggle with. It's time for real solutions that put the needs of our seniors first.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE
Designed to offer life-saving drugs at reasonable prices, the Medicare prescription-drug plan is said by some critics to be too complicated and confusing.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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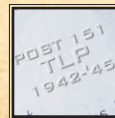
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War Correspondence

Too rarely are U.S. troops' own observations called upon to help tell the story of America's ongoing war against terrorism. The American Legion requested firsthand observations, and many poured in, nearly all by e-mail. As the war progresses, The American Legion Magazine and www.legion.org will continue to publish firsthand accounts from those whose boots are on the ground, who present a side of the story too often denied a place in the mainstream media marketplace. Here is just a sample of those voices, fresh today, on their way to history.

— Compiled and edited by Elissa Kaupisch

FROM: Capt. Jack Rebolledo

SUBJECT: Why the hell are we in Iraq?

TO: The American Legion Magazine

My team provided convoy security for Iraqi vehicles transporting soldiers to designated polling stations. The soldiers were required to be unarmed, and the Americans had to remain at least 200 feet away from the polling site.

The soldiers arrived in trucks packed 40 men deep. They exited and quickly lined up single file. With their ID cards in hand, they already knew who they would vote for. Their ballots were 70 pages long, but they quickly found their candidates' names and dropped their ballots. They came out of the building jubilant. One soldier started singing. The rest joined in and danced. I asked the interpreter what they were singing about. They were singing about one of

the candidates. Apparently, the candidate had opposed Saddam Hussein's regime, and many of his family were killed because of his views. Now he was a candidate hoping to unify Iraq.

Many said, "Thank you, Mister," as they filed past me. These

soldiers were thanking me – and, through me, thanking my 2,000-plus brothers-in-arms who died so they could vote here today. I have no idea who these guys voted for, and I have no idea what the political ramifications of one winner over another will be. But knowing that our presence here will give the Iraqi people the opportunity for their own destiny made me proud to call myself an American.

Capt. Jack S. Rebolledo

3d BDE/7th Iraqi DIV MTT G-3

1-293 Infantry (AASLT)



FROM: Joshua Eckhoff

SUBJECT: A letter for the school paper from a former student

TO: The Parkway South High School Patriots

To my fellow Patriots,

I suppose you are wondering just who I am. Quite simply, I am an American soldier. And I am much more. I am a friend, a son, a student and an athlete. I am a teenager and an adult. I am much like you, with one exception. I am in Iraq. My name is Joshua

Eckhoff, and I graduated from South High last year. I have been in country now for over three months.

I must share with you what I have come to know as two of the most powerful forces in the world today: kindness and hope. Unlike the divisive power of bullets and bombs, the power of kindness and hope comes from bringing people closer and reminding us that we are all in this together.

As a soldier, I have been exposed to the evils and horrors of war. However, I have also experienced endless kindness from my family, my friends, my teachers and total strangers. The greatest gift these people have given me is the gift of hope. Hope of a better day. Hope of coming home. Hope of having the opportunity to return the kindness that has been so selflessly shown to me in the months I have been gone.

I have seen the glimmer of hope in an Iraqi child's eyes, and I assure you that hope, like kindness, transcends cultural and racial barriers.

With "Patriot" pride,

Joshua Eckhoff (Class of 2003)

Editor's Note: Eight months after graduating from Parkway South High School in Ballwin, Mo., PFC Joshua W. Eckhoff joined the National Guard. His unit, the 1140th Engineer Battalion, served in Iraq from February 2004 to February 2005. When tragedy struck Parkway South in the form of a student suicide, a teacher asked Eckhoff to write an inspirational message for the school paper.

Eckhoff is a member of American Legion Post 777 in St. Louis.





FROM: Lt. Col. Rick Simmons

SUBJECT: Duty calls!

TO: The American Legion family, veterans and Pickens County citizens

I am taking a leave of absence from the Pickens County Office of Veterans Affairs to return to the battlefield in the global war on terror in Iraq. Shortly, I will report to Fort Bragg to process into the active Army for the next 18 months. I am slated for a joint assignment with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, a privileged duty. Once my service is completed, I'll be released back to the Army and discharged. Then I will return to Pickens County to resume my duties.

I volunteered. I go to Iraq to ensure no more mass graves and to help a fledgling democracy take hold. In short, the humanity of the Iraqi people is more important than any sacrifice in my life for the next 18 months. Some people would argue that any notion of smiting out evil and establishing justice is an idea lost to the antiquity of former centuries, but it is the reason I choose to go to war.

Lt. Col. Rick Simmons

Pickens County, S.C., Veterans Affairs Officer

Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Rick Simmons was elected as the Pickens County Veterans Affairs Officer in 1997 and serves as American Legion District 6 commander for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson counties. He served in Bagram, Afghanistan, from 2002 to 2003, and he received the Bronze Star. Simmons is a 2000 Legion College graduate.

FROM: SSG Jonathan Randolph

SUBJECT: A big thanks to the Auxiliary!

TO: The American Legion

The American Legion Auxiliary in Fairbanks, Alaska, has been a great supporter of our troops in Iraq. They regularly send us care packages, which include cards, movies, pictures from home, food and news from the States. They spend time with our wives in moments of need and host outings for our children.

I recently received a Valentine's Day package filled with chocolates, stuffed animals and, best of all, handmade cards from my children.

*Thank you,
SSG Jonathan Randolph,
Iraq*

FROM: SSG Timothy Wilding

SUBJECT: Something as simple as shoes

TO: The American Legion



I was deployed with the U.S. Army Reserve's 428th Transportation Company. We were assigned the task of providing convoy escort gun trucks around the Sunni Triangle. My job, as the field ordering officer, was to purchase goods and services from Iraqi contractors. I hired 15 Iraqi day workers to work on base on different projects. They worked every day except Friday, the Muslim holy day. I paid the workers \$10 a day. This was the most money they'd ever made. Most of them supported about 10 to 15 others. One guy bought three PlayStations and rented them out in a room of his house to make extra money. He was in the Iraqi army under Saddam and made \$3 a month. The soldiers would give these workers anything they didn't want anymore: shoes, DVDs, water tanks, doors, mattresses and food. In October 2004, our wives collected shoes, and we gave them out in the local village, Taji. We gave out something like 2,000 shoes. We got mobbed by the villagers and had to leave after an hour. There were just too many people trying to get shoes.

SSG Timothy Wilding, retired

428th Transportation Company, USAR

Editor's Note: SSG Timothy Wilding is a member of American Legion Post 5 in Jefferson City, Mo.

FROM: SGT Gabe Medina

SUBJECT: Hats off to the citizens of Iraq!

TO: The American Legion

I'm with the 835th CSB, Jefferson City, Mo. My unit was deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, from 2004 to 2005. I headed up my battalion's civil affairs section. This provided me opportunities to break down the social gaps and stereotypes that exist between the local Iraqis and the U.S. military. With the help of family, friends, fellow soldiers and private U.S. citizens, I was able to rally support for humanitarian supplies to be sent. These items put smiles on hundreds of children's faces. We conducted three to four humanitarian missions a week to local schools and villages. I formed bonds with locals I still hold close.

I still talk to my Iraqi interpreter and his family through e-mails and telephone calls. He said the family is doing well, but I can still hear the faint hint of fear and unrest in his voice. I know that his closeness with me made him a target by the insurgency, but he continues to say that if he doesn't fight for his freedom, who will?

Sgt. Gabe Medina
U.S. Army



FROM: Daniel Laskowski

SUBJECT: Miss you guys!

TO: My family

Greetings from Tent City!
The heat here is unusual.

The sun beats down on the black asphalt. If you check the temperature on it, it zips past 120 (the last mark on the temperature gauge) to what we figure is probably 145 degrees or more. It is so intense that everyone carries water with them everywhere they go. If you drink too little, you risk getting dehydrated. It happens so fast to some people they must be rushed to the hospital.

We work in a small trailer with a kitchen that the chow hall set up. They just finished building a break room. It is a metal-framed rubber tent the size of the school gym. They put in furniture, a TV, video/CD player and a refrigerator. Some of the videos your school collected and sent are here.

As I do my job, I think about you guys. It helps me to stay focused. We have a big bulletin board in the chow hall. It says, "THE REASONS WE ARE HERE." Guys put up pictures from home. I put your pictures up there, too.

Please accept that this is the job I have to do. I don't like being away from you. But later on, you will realize that it is a small sacrifice so that your lives will be better and safer in the years to come.

Love,
Dad



FROM: Yeoman 2nd Class Joy N. Fearn

SUBJECT: Little things make you think

TO: Family and friends

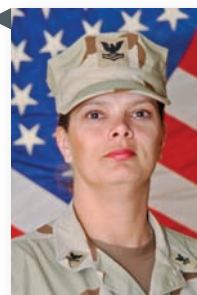
I watched a mouse die today. I gave the mouse a proper burial in the trash can. We wondered if he died of an overdose because we found several partially eaten Hershey Kisses stashed in corners. Can a mouse die of chocolate overdose like a dog can?

I am hoping this mouse's death is the only death I have to deal with in my time here. All over, I see signs of attacks past – broken street lamps, crushed semi-trailers – and it reminds me of the others that have come before me. I see the Humvees return to camp with bullet holes that never fully penetrated the glass. I see bullet holes in the shorts of people who were riding in the Humvees. I see pictures in briefings of what is left of terrorists who tie bombs to themselves. What is it all for?

I have talked to a lot of people here who seem to truly believe in what we are doing here, which is a damn good thing. Terrorism is not going to go away – ever. It is like a dandelion in the middle of your yard. You mow it over and over, but all you do is trim the top. To truly get rid of it, you have to kill it at the root.

For those people protesting the war, I have only one question: when terrorism shows up in your neighborhood – and eventually it will – what are you going to do about it then? Stand in your front yard with your little paper sign saying "Yucky Terrorist, Go Away"? In this day and age, there is, unfortunately, only one way to ensure that terrorism doesn't show up in our neighborhood, and that's to do exactly what we are doing.

Yeoman 2nd Class Joy N. Fearn
U. S. Navy Reserve, Seabee Combat Warfare
Al Anbar Province, Iraq



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—Dr. Lyda D. Tymiak ”



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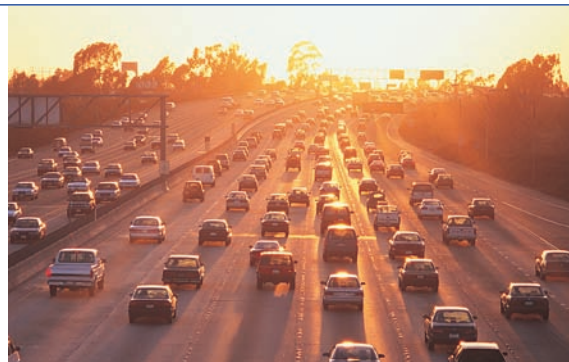
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FROM: SSG Jay E. Baldwin

SUBJECT: Hello!

TO: The American Legion

I'm an active member of the Alaska Army National Guard, A/3 297th FWD, a unit of more than 127 soldiers who just returned from Baghdad. We served at Camp Victory from January 2005 to January 2006. We were responsible for FOB (Forward Operating Base) security in our sector, which consisted of tower guards and patrols in local neighborhoods. It was an experience none of us will forget. It was very sad to see the Iraqi children living in such poverty, running and playing in sewage water with no shoes on.

One of the best memories is seeing the difference that occurred in the community for the year we were there. Locals were trying to clean up their neighborhoods little by little. The Iraqi military was becoming stronger and more professional. We passed out clothing, school supplies, toys and candy. Our medics tried their best to help the sick and injured. The communities we served named us "The Seven Stars" because of the emblem spray-painted on our Hummers representing our state flag. Many times the locals warned us of suspected IEDs and saved our lives.

We left our homes for 18 months, and many of us missed out on family gatherings. But if you ask me, it was worth it. Not only do I think we made a difference, but we were an example that life can get better.



FROM: Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Griswold

SUBJECT: Thanks for your support

TO: The American Legion and friends back home

I am stationed at Camp Phoenix outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, part of the embedded training team for the Headquarters Security and Support Battalion. We work near the Presidential Palace with the Afghan National Army, which provides security for the president of Afghanistan and security checkpoints around the Kabul area for the Ministry of Defense. We mentor our counterparts on how to better build their army on points like soldier welfare and logistics, and help support a functional chain of command.

My unit had the most gratifying experience when we adopted an orphanage in Kabul. Poverty is the norm here, and the kids feel the biggest part of it. I asked for help from relatives and friends in the United States. The support and generosity was unbelievable. We were able to give the kids clothes, school supplies, toys and food. One of the biggest contributors was Mountain School in Flagstaff, Ariz., which made blankets and collected clothes amounting to more than 24 huge boxes that we delivered to the kids. Through funds here, we were able to buy 16 wood stoves for the winter. I probably delivered more than 50 boxes of needed supplies for this orphanage.

We are still in a combat zone, and we realize that on a daily basis. But what is being done here is a positive step for the future of this country.

CSM Rick Griswold, NCOES Commandant

Arizona Army National Guard

158th Regional Training Institute, Phoenix

FROM: Col. William (Bill) Glasser
SUBJECT: What it really means to
"support the troops"

TO: My fellow Americans

I remind my fellow Americans that they are not only sending their sons and daughters, but also their grandfathers and grandmothers. We serve because it is our duty. It is the duty of every American, whatever he or she may think of the war, to support us. Support is more than sporting bumper stickers or flags, and more than sending cookies and cards. Real support is ensuring that we are adequately trained, sufficiently supplied and properly paid during our service. Support is ensuring that we are treated fairly upon our return – that veterans benefits include adequate medical care, job preferences that aren't limited to only low- and mid-level positions, that educational benefits are as generous as the original GI Bill. The men and women of my command, the Joint Contracting Command, serve in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and also responded to the earthquake in Pakistan. We work 14 hours a day six-and-a-half days a week, under threat and under fire. We are rebuilding two war-torn nations and another devastated by natural disaster. We keep the fighting forces of the coalition in Iraq and the combined forces in Afghanistan supplied with the tools of war and the tools of peace. We are proud of what we do. We hope all Americans are proud of what we do.

Col. William (Bill) Glasser
Judge Advocate, U.S. Army
Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan

Editor's Note: As a civilian, Col. William Glasser worked on the construction of the World Trade Center. His father, a U.S. Customs inspector and a Legionnaire for more than 50 years, was in Building 6 of the WTC when it was attacked by terrorists on Sept. 11. He survived. Glasser is a 2001 Legion College graduate and is deputy commander of the Department of Pennsylvania's 14th District.



FROM: SFC Charles Thomas
SUBJECT: The media doesn't tell all
TO: The American Legion

I am a platoon sergeant with the 860th Military Police Company from Phoenix. Our mission was to train, mentor and assess the Iraqi Police (IPs). My platoon also conducted main supply route (MSR) security missions and convoy security missions. We were in Iraq for 11 months. When we started to work with the IPs, we expected major changes, but that didn't happen – at least not to our standards. As we trained the IPs, they started to make small changes. But these were major changes for them – such as wearing uniforms and going on patrols. A lot of the IPs were very receptive to us and eager to learn. They put their lives on the line every day just being an IP. IPs are killed for doing their job and working with the Americans, but this doesn't stop them. They want change.

The Iraqi people as a whole were receptive to us, and the children were happy to see us. I told my soldiers that it's going to be hard to change the lifestyle of the older Iraqi people, but the children are their future.

Imagine you grew up in a room for 30 years, never leaving that room. All that time, you were told the people on the other side of the door were bad. All of a sudden, the door opens and you are allowed to leave. You're scared, but eager to find out what's outside the door. It's hard to trust those outside the door right away, but you start to learn that they are not bad people after all. This is what it's like for the Iraqi people.

SFC Charles Thomas
860th Military Police Company
Phoenix



FROM: Staff Sgt. George H. Stevens

SUBJECT: My experiences in OEF

TO: The American Legion

I was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. When I arrived, I was very nervous. But as time went on, things

improved dramatically. The mission of the 76th Infantry Brigade was to support and defend the people of Afghanistan and train their army so that in the future they would be able to protect and defend themselves. The 76th Infantry Brigade did an outstanding job accomplishing its mission.

I think that once the people of Afghanistan can provide for themselves and establish a government free of corruption, the country will begin to move forward. Afghanistan must be able to establish a government that will ensure basic human rights for all people. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, the right to own property and to protect the privacy of your home, and the right to vote and elect officials who are qualified and capable of leading the country in the right direction are all goals they seek to achieve.



FROM: Sgt. Romeo Horvath

SUBJECT: Rebuilding Karbala

TO: The American Legion

I served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003 to 2004 in the California National Guard, assigned to a military police unit. Our duties included creating a police academy in Karbala, Iraq, to train former Iraq policemen and soldiers for law-enforcement duties, and rebuilding the Karbala police station while providing law and order.

We also performed many humanitarian missions. We distributed more than 1,000 donated soccer balls to hundreds of Iraqi children, we helped distribute millions of dollars of welfare money to Karbala citizens, and we helped rebuild the Karbala children's hospital and donated many medical supplies and equipment.

Every day there were hundreds of Iraqis looking for work in front of the city hall, which was next door to the police station. While we were rebuilding the Karbala police station, I created

jobs for local Iraqis to clean up the front of the station. It was an absolute mess. It was overgrown with weeds. I collected daily donations from other members of my platoon to pay the workers. My platoon and I felt good about providing some sort of income for these unemployed Iraqis. They did a terrific job, and it was hard for them to leave after the job was done.

Sgt. Romeo M. Horvath

OIF/OEF Outreach Coordinator

Department of Veterans Affairs

Peninsula Vet Center, Redwood City, Calif.



FROM: TSgt Brian McClain

SUBJECT: Greetings from Iraq

TO: My sister Chris



The doctors over here really amaze me. You see some of the people come into the ER, and you think there is no way they are gonna live. Well, they work some magic over here, and they usually make it through. There is a 96-percent chance of surviving if you make it to this ER. Some of the injuries are pretty brutal. Yet they somehow save

them. I'm just glad I can say that I am a part of that team.

TSgt Brian McClain

332 AEW/EMDG, Red Tail Medics

Balad Airbase, LSA Camp Anaconda, Iraq

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¹Clegg, D. et al. The efficacy of Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulfate in Patients with Painful Knee Osteoarthritis (OA): The Glucosamine/Chondroitin Arthritis Intervention Trial (GAIT). 2005 ACR/ARHP Annual Scientific Meeting. ©2006, Arthritis Research Corp. 349705mva



PhotoDisc

A PLACE OF HONOR

State partnerships, federal grants help America meet an everlasting responsibility.

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

A lush oasis floats on the dusty outskirts of Fernley, Nev. There, surrounded by sand and scrub brush about 40 miles east of Reno, no fewer than 4,500 American heroes are laid to rest. The state-run Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery opened in 1990 and has a projected capacity of 60,000, says director Wes Block.

Some 2,100 miles east of Fernley, on bluffs overlooking the Ohio River, is the grave of Army veteran Robert Lloyd Davis. Davis was the first of more than 340 U.S. servicemembers buried to date in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Madison, Ind. The 120-acre site, which opened in 1999, can accommodate 40,000 burials and has 500 spaces in a columbarium wall, says superintendent David Varble.

And in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, on a December morning in 2004, Navy veteran Albert G. Horton Jr. was buried. Horton for years fought for a veterans cemetery in that area of Virginia, and when his vision was realized, it was named in his honor. He is among more than 569 veterans already buried there. The cemetery is expected to serve the area's 177,000 veterans for the next 80 to 100 years, says administrator Daniel R. Kemano.

This Memorial Day weekend, the families of fallen veterans will gather on sacred grounds across America. They will cast flowers, lay wreaths and pay tribute at veterans cemeteries

like Fernley, Madison and Hampton Roads – state-run resting places brought into existence by VA construction grants. The grant program, enacted in the late 1970s, has provided funds for more than 150 state veterans cemetery projects, from new sites to expansions. To receive grant money, states must show capacity to accept new graves for 20 or more years.

State cemeteries augment another 122 national veterans cemeteries that collectively attempt to fulfill a long-held American promise: to offer free or low-cost gravesites for all who once honorably served their country. The population of living veterans now exceeds 23 million. In many locations, a burial place for a spouse also is offered, nearly doubling the potential need.

As the 1990s unfolded, more veterans and their families moved south, and the veteran death rate began climbing toward its expected 2007 peak. The promise of a permanent place of honor became more difficult to keep.

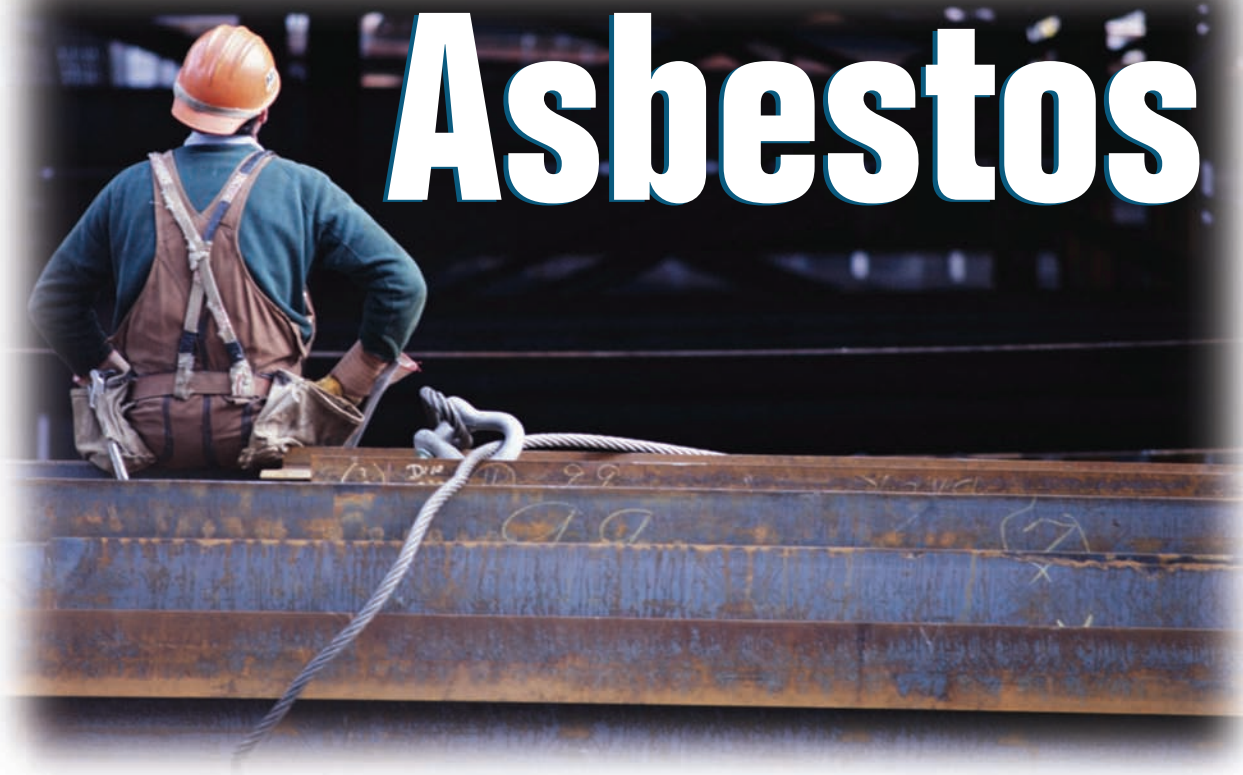
Nearly half of the VA National Cemetery Administration's sites in 39 states and Puerto Rico no longer accept new casketed remains except in the same grave site of previously interred family members. Only 25 accept cremated remains. In Indiana, two of three national cemeteries are closed for new casket burials except for same-site interment. One of those cemeteries will only

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accept cremated remains. No national veterans cemeteries exist in Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming or Guam.

Where national cemeteries are absent, state cemeteries pick up the responsibility. Many of them owe their existence or continued operation to VA's State Cemetery Grants Program, which has awarded or obligated more than \$245 million to 34 states and Guam for the establishment, expansion or improvement of 65 state veterans cemeteries since 1980. In fiscal 2005, VA-supported state cemeteries provided more than 20,000 interments.

"State cemeteries fill the gaps," says Rep. John Walsh, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, which oversees the NCA. "SCGP is an excellent example of how federal and state governments can work together to provide burial grounds for America's military veterans and their families."

However, rising land values in growth areas of the country, particularly the South – along with ever-tightening land-use restrictions – have caused delays in cemetery construction and expansion projects.

Early this year, southern Florida finally received approval for a 313-acre veterans cemetery near Boynton Beach. In the state with the second-largest veteran population – about 1.8 million and growing – southern Floridians were about 250 miles from the nearest veterans cemetery, and the need was well-documented. But the project was delayed five years, until early 2006, over concerns that the cemetery would reduce habitat for the endangered wood stork.

Prioritizing locations, finding land, obtaining it and clearing regulatory hurdles are among many challenges that have led VA, state governments and local veterans to unite in the battle for cemetery development, often a complicated bureaucratic march. Demographics have affected long-term planning, with a longer-living population that has gravitated to states with warmer climates.

Also, veterans today more often choose veterans cemeteries over other grounds in the private sector. Since 1973, the annual percentage of veterans laid to rest in VA cemeteries has increased by more than 150 percent. That percentage is not expected to decline at least until 2009, if at all. With an anticipated peak of veteran deaths now upon the nation, and the war on terrorism continuing to produce more veterans, the issue of finding a final resting place for all who qualify is not likely to go away soon.

Congress is aware of the challenge. In 1999 and 2003, VA was instructed to establish 12 new national cemeteries. All are now in various stages of development. One cemetery, Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, Okla., has completed the first phase of construction and is now accepting burials. Three others – National Cemetery of the Alleghenies near Pittsburgh, Great Lakes National Cemetery near Detroit and Georgia National Cemetery near Atlanta – are accepting



Vicki Anderson, Girl Scouts

Girl Scout helps families find veterans in cemetery

While national and state cemetery officials work to assure that U.S. military veterans have reasonable access to burial sites across the country, Bethany Daniels is making it easier to find where veterans are buried at the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee.

The Senior Girl Scout compiled catalogs and photographs of private headstones in two sections of the national veterans cemetery. She then created a scrapbook of the information, now available to help visitors locate family and friends.

The effort earned Daniels the Gold Award, the highest achievement possible for Girl Scouts between ages 14 and 17. To earn the Gold Award, a candidate must plan and implement a large-scale community project involving a minimum of 50 hours that reflects individual interests and challenges her abilities.

"Setting goals and making plans to accomplish the goals is a skill that we all need in life," said Daniels, who at age 2 was diagnosed with cancer and is deaf as a result of chemotherapy.

"Handicapped girls, girls from lower incomes, girls from dysfunctional homes at times feel that they are limited to what they can accomplish," Daniels said. "Scouting has made me feel that I can do whatever anyone else can. I may have to attempt it in a different way, but I can succeed."

Daniels is a senior at Red Bank High School. She plans to pursue an accounting degree at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

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burials as part of early turnover programs. Cemeteries in Sacramento and Bakersfield, Calif., Birmingham, Ala., Columbia/Greenville, S.C., Jacksonville, Sarasota and West Palm Beach, Fla., and a cemetery in southern Pennsylvania are expected to be ready before 2010. NCA officials say the new facilities will meet needs well into the 21st century.

"We are attempting to keep ahead of burial needs by regularly examining population shifts," Walsh says. "Vigilance is the key to provide adequate capacity where possible at current national veterans cemeteries and to make certain we construct new cemeteries where they are needed most – near expanding veteran populations."

Walsh says NCA faces tough competition for federal money. However, he adds, "We are honor-bound to assure America's military heroes have a final resting place of honor in national shrines befitting their brave service to their country."

NCA annual appropriations have risen from \$121 million in 2002 to \$156 million in 2006. The president's 2007 budget proposal calls for \$161 million in operations and maintenance funding for national cemeteries. Annual appropriations for SCGP have remained static at \$32 million since 2004.

"Adequate resources are vital to fulfill NCA's mission to continue to meet burial needs and maintain its national cemeteries as shrines dedicated to preserving our nation's history and honoring veterans' service and sacrifice," says VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs William F. Tuerk.

More than 3 million veterans – from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom – are buried in state and national cemeteries in America and abroad. Their headstones, row after row, stand as breathtaking testimony to the cost of freedom and to the pledge that those who vowed to fight must never be forgotten.

The new national cemeteries of recent years and additional burial capacity of state cemeteries created through SCGP will increase the percentage of veterans served at a national or state veterans cemetery within 75 miles of their residence to nearly 84 percent, NCA says. To families who now have to travel hundreds of miles to the nearest veterans cemetery, that's a sign of progress.

The challenge remains daunting in a time of scarcity both of land and of federal dollars, but Walsh says a final resting place of honor is a promise the U.S. government intends to keep.

"We owe nothing less to these courageous military veterans than to bury them in places of honor at national or state shrines that testify to their country's eternal gratitude," he said. "It is our promise. It is our duty." 🌿

James V. Carroll is assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.



James V. Carroll

Monumental proportions

2.7 million Number of veterans gravesites the National Cemetery Administration maintains at 122 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers lots and monuments

15,300 Approximate number of acres within established national cemeteries, just over half of which are undeveloped

683,000 Number of veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico who died in 2005

12 Historical percentage of U.S. veterans who choose burial in national and state veterans cemeteries

9.1 million Approximate number of headstones and markers provided by VA since 1973

363,600 Number of headstones and markers provided by VA in 2005

381,000 Number of hours volunteered at national cemeteries during fiscal 2005

8.8 million Minimum number of people who visited VA national cemeteries in fiscal 2005

82 State veterans cemeteries operated in the United States and Guam, four of which are closed to new burials

0 Number of state-operated veterans cemeteries in Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, West Virginia and Puerto Rico

24 Number of permanent burial grounds administered by The American Battle Monuments Commission in Belgium, England, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, the Philippines and Tunisia

124,917 Minimum number of U.S. war dead interred in those cemeteries

14 Number of National Park Service-administered cemeteries in eight states, primarily the final resting places for Civil War dead

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CSI effect

BY DAN ALLSUP

It was just another cut-and-dried drug possession case. Prosecutors were convinced the damning evidence and testimony collected and presented to the jury were more than enough to secure a conviction. Better yet, two police officers actually saw the suspect holding the drugs when they arrested him. “How could the jury come back with anything but a conviction?” thought Illinois State Attorney Robert Haida. After all, they had the bad guy cold.

Then the jury returned, and the foreman declared, “Not guilty.” A juror approached a shocked Haida after the trial and said, “We think he did it, but where were the fingerprints on the drug baggies? Why didn’t you take prints at the scene?”

“Well,” Haida replied, “because two of our police officers saw the defendant

handle the baggies. We didn’t need to take fingerprints.”

Haida had just experienced a “CSI” moment.

With millions of potential jurors tuning in to television shows like “CSI,” “Cold Case,” “NCIS,” “Law and Order,” “Without a Trace” and others, the possibility that jurors have seen at least an episode of one of these series is highly likely. The result: many jurors demand DNA, fingerprints and other undisputed forensic evidence be presented at every trial.

Prosecutors call it the “CSI effect,” and Haida and the law-enforcement community are wary. They point out that most communities don’t have the resources to investigate cases as thoroughly or as rapidly as it’s done on television.

“The expectations of jurors, judges,

What Do Prosecutors Do?

BY ROBERT P. McCULLOCH

Back in the 1940s and early ’50s, in what many regard as the “golden era” of radio drama, one of the more popular programs was “Mr. District Attorney,” which began with the announcer saying, “It shall be the duty of the district attorney not only to prosecute all crimes committed within his jurisdiction but to defend with equal vigor the rights and privileges of all its citizens.”

Today, the popular TV program “Law & Order”

begins with the announcement, “In the criminal-justice system, the people are represented by two separate and important groups: the police who investigate crime and the district attorneys who prosecute the offenders”

Interestingly, the earlier description of the district attorney’s mission is more accurate than the second, more recent one. Yes, we do prosecute criminals, but that’s not all we do. Our overriding responsibility is to seek truth and

Robert P. McCulloch is prosecuting attorney of St. Louis County, Mo., and past president of the National District Attorneys Association.

**Television's forensic experts solve crimes
in time for the 11 o'clock news -
and create unrealistic expectations
in the minds of real-world jurors.**

prosecutors and everyone else involved in the criminal-justice system have been raised,” he said. “But this is real life, and budget restrictions and resources are limited. By July 2005, we had charged about 1,700 felonies in St. Clair County. Of that number, about 300 are violent crimes. Of those, we will have scientific evidence on only about 50. That’s real life.”

On television, “CSI” scientists never have a problem collecting and testing DNA and fingerprint evidence and getting positive results in about 40 minutes of airtime. There’s never a manpower shortage, a backlog of cases or any concern about budgets. Each investigator focuses on one case and runs every available scientific test. They’re attractive, dress stylishly, drive Hummers, and always get the bad guy to confess in time for the 11 o’clock news.

Are television’s forensic experts – with their high-tech tools not usually available to local police departments – influencing juries? Do jurors have TV-fueled unrealistic expectations about proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt?

Law-enforcement officials take these questions so seriously that in June 2005, Maricopa County, Ariz. – the country’s fourth most populous county – prepared a formal report on the phenomenon.

Titled “The CSI Effect and Its Real-Life Impact on Justice,” the report states that nearly 40 percent of county prosecutors believe they’ve had at least one trial that ended in either an acquittal or hung jury because forensic evidence was not available.

In one case, the arresting officer removed a handgun from a suspect’s

27

justice, regardless of where that search may lead – whether it results in prosecution and conviction, or in some cases, exoneration. This is a far cry from the distorted and, frankly, dishonest image spread by such radio and TV programs as “Perry Mason,” in which private investigator Mason continuously outwits the DA, portrayed as a “heavy” interested only in sending people to jail.

Our title varies from state to state. But whether we’re called “district attorney” – the most familiar term – or “commonwealth’s attorney,” “prosecuting attorney,” “state attorney,” “county attorney,” or, as in South Carolina, “solicitor,” an historic title

dating back to the colonial period, we are, in fact, the people’s attorney – the only public officials specifically elected in 45 states and appointed in the rest to represent you in fighting crime.

As prosecutors, we are unique in the law profession. We have only one client, although a collective one: you, the people in our jurisdictions. Our primary responsibility is to protect the rights and safety of the people we serve, including the victims. When you read the familiar criminal charge, “The people of the State of (name) vs. (the defendant),” the “people’s” case is presented in court by the prosecutor.

waistband. The defendant later admitted that he possessed the gun and hid it under his clothing. Neither the officer's eyewitness testimony nor the confession were enough to convince the jury. One juror asked the prosecutor to prove that the defendant's fingerprints were found on the handgun. A deputy Maricopa county attorney complained after losing a case, saying, "The jury wanted more crime-scene photos – they placed more emphasis on police investigation than on the victim's testimony."



Another prosecutor put it this way: "Jurors always want more fingerprints or some sort of scientific evidence to convict, even with a full confession."

If "CSI" and similar television shows are having such an impact on juries, just how accurate are they? According to one real-life CSI expert, not very.

"'CSI' shows what is possible forensically, not what commonly happens," said Sgt. Jay Zuma, an Illinois State Police officer and field supervisor of the Metro East Crime Scene Unit in Fairview Heights, Ill. In his opinion, real crimes are still solved by good, old-fashioned police work.

"'CSI' shows the realm of extreme possibilities," he said. "It doesn't always happen like that. We don't solve a crime as rapidly as they do on TV, and we certainly don't get results from forensics tests as quickly as they do. We'll usually spend two hours handling evidence and working on paperwork for

The defense speaks ...

Some defense attorneys agree that television crime shows do affect jurors – but not always to the benefit of the defendant.

Defense attorney and occasional public defender Justin Kuehn of Belleville, Ill., asked, "Do you remember 'Perry Mason' and 'Matlock'? In these shows, the defendant was always innocent, and it was the defense attorney's job to prove the police arrested the wrong guy. Today's television only depicts cases where the defendant is declared guilty. Maybe real juries have the same impression."

Understandably disagreeing with prosecuting attorneys, Kuehn believes juries give too much credence to forensic evidence, and that evidence presented in a television courtroom usually is far less than what is needed in a real trial. Television crime shows do affect jurors, he says, and that's usually not a good thing. Today's jurors appear to have too much faith in the evidence gathered by "CSI" investigators.

"By and large, I think 'CSI' is harmful," Kuehn said. "For example, I have a big problem with fingerprint evidence. Prosecutors rely so much on it, but many scientists have thrown out (the infallibility) of fingerprint evidence. Other countries have much more stringent requirements of the number of points of comparison than we do. Fingerprints aren't foolproof. Television has made my job more difficult because some defendants are convicted on far too little evidence than what is really needed."

Do defendants ever benefit from the "CSI effect" because jurors expect more evidence from the prosecution?

"Sometimes," Kuehn admits. "But if the prosecution wants to take away this guy's freedom, the least they can do is take his fingerprints or collect gunpowder residue. Even then, however, the fact that there is or is not gunpowder residue doesn't have anything to do with the fact that the guy actually killed someone."

– Dan Allsup

Prosecutors (cont.)

As a general rule, defense attorneys have considerable leeway in making out-of-court statements during a trial, while prosecutors are severely limited by professional ethics standards in what they can say publicly beyond basic explanation of the charges and related information until after the trial is completed. Too often a DA's obligatory refusal to comment beyond these basic explanations is misconstrued as an effort to hide something.

Although you may see analysts identified as "former federal prosecutors" discussing local crimes on TV talk shows, the fact is that your local

district attorney, and his or her counterparts across the country, prosecute more than 95 percent of the crimes in the United States. They also work just as hard to prevent crimes and to rehabilitate young first-time offenders to help them along the path to good citizenship. They are uniquely qualified to do this because they live, work and raise their families in the jurisdictions they serve. They know the territory.

Thus, district attorneys are community leaders, working with civic, religious and educational organizations as well as with social workers and

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every one hour we work in the field (collecting forensic evidence). I'm also not aware of the television 'CSI' people being concerned about budgets and case loads. That's paramount in our minds."

Television is such an influence these days that it's common for prosecutors to ask members of a jury pool about the shows they watch. Viewing habits do influence jurors, said John Riley, presiding judge of the 22nd Court of Missouri in St. Louis. Although he's never seen the television show, he's well aware of the "CSI" effect in his courtroom.

"I think jurors today have higher expectations for the state to prove their case," he said. "It's not uncommon for a juror to ask for fingerprints when they aren't really necessary. Lawyers do a pretty good job asking the right questions during *voir dire* (pre-trial questioning of prospective jurors). They used to ask jurors what newspapers and magazines they read. Today, they ask what television shows they watch. They have to enforce the idea that the courtroom isn't a television show."

Are legitimate crime-scene investigators worried about criminals learning all the tricks of the trade via a TV script? Are the bad guys getting smarter? Not really, Zuma said. Besides, at times, "CSI" truly does imitate real life. "On occasion, it does go down like it does on TV," he says.

He recalls one incident in which a



Crime Labs: Who's doing what?

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics conducted studies in 2003 and 2004 of the nation's publicly funded forensic-crime laboratories. The study, which collected statistics from the year 2002, produced the following findings:

- Three hundred fifty-one forensic crime labs dot the nation: 33 federal, 203 state or regional, 65 county and 50 municipal labs with about 9,400 employees.
- Tremendous backlogs exist at forensic labs nationwide. At the end of 2002, there were more than 500,000 backlogged requests, compared to 290,000 backlogged requests at the beginning of the year – a 70-percent increase.
- Labs vary in the types of analyses they conduct:
 - Nine out of 10 forensic labs can identify controlled substances.
 - Six of 10 can conduct crime-scene evidence collection, biology screening, firearms and tool-marks analyses, and latent print analysis or trace-evidence assessments.
 - About half the labs can conduct toxicology analyses and process DNA evidence.
 - One in four labs can examine questioned documents.
 - One in nine can conduct forensic computer analyses.
- The most frequently requested forensic lab service was the identification of controlled substances, amounting to 1.3 million requests.
- Law-enforcement agencies submitted about 61,000 DNA analysis requests to publicly operated crime labs. About 42,000 were processed during the year.
- Nine in 10 labs that handle fingerprint identifications are equipped with an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS). This system can electronically compare fingerprints collected from crime scenes with electronic fingerprints on local, state and national databases.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Web site, www.ojp.usdoj.gov

Prosecutors (cont.)

other professionals, often on their own time, to address the roots of crime and make their communities better places in which to live and raise families. While prosecuting criminals, they also work with the victims and their families, addressing their concerns and often assisting them in coping with the violent death of a loved one.

When the people's safety and interests are threatened, they need a champion. Prosecutors fill that role, sometimes at considerable political risk.

When Paul Gallegos, district attorney of Humboldt County in northern California – timber

country – decided that Pacific Lumber had apparently lied to state regulators during a 1999 agreement that capped a decades-long battle to save the state's (which meant the people's) remaining stands of giant redwoods not already protected in parks or reserves, he and his top assistant filed a civil fraud case against the powerful timber firm. Gallegos contended that the fraud had allowed Pacific Lumber to harvest about \$40 million worth of the irreplaceable redwoods each year on 211,000 acres that were supposed to be protected under logging restrictions as part of the 1999 deal. This

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predator sexually assaulted a woman. Zuma worked the scene in the morning, then brought the evidence to the lab and gave it to one of his most experienced fingerprint examiners 15 minutes before lunch. Fourteen minutes later, the examiner had a fingerprint match from the computer system. Zuma got to lunch on time, and he also got a conviction.

"No matter how careful a criminal is, there can be evidence at the crime scene," he said. "We can identify a suspect from just a fragment of a fingerprint. I've even seen DNA cases where we find a speck of blood smaller than a pinhead embedded in a shoelace that's

gone through the washing machine. Fantastic things do happen, just not every day.

"That's why I'm not really worried about the TV show. They may show our capabilities, but it doesn't really affect the mechanism of the crime. The contact and the transfer are still there."

So it appears the "CSI" television show really does depict life in a real crime-scene unit.

"Not really," Zuma sighed. "We drive 10-year-old minivans, not Hummers." 🌿

Dan Allsup is a St. Louis-area freelance writer.

Prosecutors (cont.)

cost taxpayers \$480 million, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The immediate result was a well-financed recall campaign to boot Gallegos out of his job. When it was disclosed that Pacific Lumber had paid \$8 a signature to fill out petitions needed to qualify the recall for the ballot and that the timber company and its contractors had contributed more than 80 percent of the money for the recall campaign – \$266,000 and still counting at election time – the voters of Humboldt County quickly figured out what was going on and who their real friend was. They voted overwhelmingly to retain Gallegos, despite what the *Times* described as "an intensive campaign of radio, TV and direct-mail advertisements that portrayed Gallegos as soft on crime and a friend of illegal tree-sitters, rapists and pot growers." Gallegos rightfully called his victory "a triumph of the people over the influence of money and lies in politics."

Today's real-life prosecutors work with the police forces in their jurisdictions in coordinating anti-crime efforts, as well as with federal authorities in multi-jurisdictional situations such as terrorism. As the scope and sophistication of crimes change and increase, prosecutors have created specialized units to deal with such situations as cyber-crime, domestic and child abuse, drug trafficking and gangs. They also use the latest technical tools, including computerization and DNA, to ensure that justice is served. They do all this much too often without regard to what should be a sensible workday or work week, often with inadequate budgets and lean staffs. Approximately 24 percent of the local prosecutors in the United States serve part-time. As

a group, prosecutors – except for a very few in the largest metropolitan jurisdictions – are paid much less than a brand-new law-school graduate earns in his or her first job with a large law firm. Obviously they're not doing it for the money.

Across the country, approximately 2,350 local prosecutors' offices try felony cases in state courts. Some, like those in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, have hundreds of attorneys. Others – the vast majority – are much smaller. In fact, in a number of rural counties, the prosecutor is the staff. The median staff size of local prosecutors' offices in the United States is only nine, which includes attorneys and support staff alike. While much emphasis has been placed over the last decade in beefing up police forces or building more prison cells, the median size of prosecutors' offices has increased by only one person. Ironically, the increase in prosecutors' staff lags far behind the pace of constructing more jail cells to house the criminals they have convicted.

With increasing caseloads and expanding services – victim witness and youth crime prevention, for example – prosecutors face immense challenges in allocating their time. In my jurisdiction, I work with police on a variety of issues, from evidence collection to training. As a community leader, I spend considerable time in community support and crime-prevention programs, as well in victim assistance. All this requires more time in management and caring for our staff – the key element in any office.

However, I still personally try cases, as a reminder to myself and my staff of our primary obligation to the people of our county. 🌿

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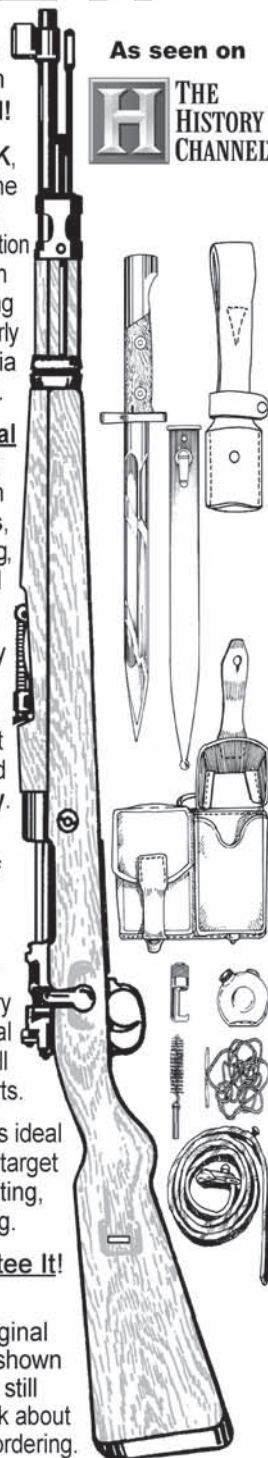
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9/11 and the war in Iraq are linked because...

BY ALAN W. DOWD

The wars of 9/11," as Simon Serfaty of Center for Security and International Studies concluded just weeks after the attacks that maimed Manhattan and scarred the Pentagon, "will be a decisive test of America's credibility as a durable power." In other words, he recognized that it wasn't Sept. 11 alone, horrible as it was, that would test America, but also the path America would choose in response to Sept. 11.

That path has led U.S. troops into Afghanistan and Pakistan, to Kyrgyzstan and other former Soviet republics, to the borderlands of Syria and Iran, to the Philippines and Djibouti, and all the way to Timbuktu (literally) – and, of course, into Iraq. Now, amid these wars of 9/11, America faces perhaps its sternest test here at home.

That's because, even though the U.S. military wins every engagement in Iraq, the war effort is steadily losing the one thing that matters most: the support of the American people. As Alexis de Tocqueville observed long before the British carved out

the borders of Iraq, "Among democratic nations, the private soldiers remain most like civilians; upon them, the habits of the nation have the firmest hold and public opinion has the most influence."

In other words, polls do matter, especially in a time of war. And to the extent that polls reflect public attitudes about what promises to be a long, hard war on terrorism, the polls have been worrisome since late 2003.

For instance, less than half of Americans polled now identify the war in Iraq as part of the wider war on terror. And that number is falling. With U.S. troops dying at a steady and somber rate of two per day, 60 percent of Americans say Iraq is not worth the costs. With more than 2,300 Americans killed in Iraq, more than half of the public supports a rapid withdrawal. That percentage is growing.

Yet as Karlyn Bowman of the American Enterprise Institute has found in a massive survey of post-9/11 polling data, more than eight in 10 Americans said in autumn 2001

they would support military action against any nation found to be aiding terrorists. Almost as many Americans – 77 percent – said in early 2003 that Iraq was part of the war on terror. Bowman also has unearthed a CNN poll that asked Americans just days after 9/11 if they would support military action even if it meant 5,000 troops would be killed. In a sign of our grim, if ephemeral, determination, 76 percent said yes.

In short, although the doomsayers and bad-news media say otherwise, there was a time when the American people recognized that it would take time to wage the wars of 9/11. There was even a time when the American people recognized that 9/11 and Iraq were linked, though not in the manner the war critics have come to ridicule.

... we changed.

For good or ill, Sept. 11 changed the very DNA of U.S. national-security policy. “Any administration in such a crisis,” as historian John Lewis Gaddis concludes in “Surprise, Security and the American Experience,” “would have had to rethink what it thought it knew about security and hence strategy.” Was deterrence any longer possible? Was containment viable? Was it responsible to give the benefit of the doubt to repeat offenders like Saddam Hussein? One by one, the Bush administration answered those questions. And the answer to each was “no,” which is why Sept. 11 led first to Afghanistan, then to Baghdad.

This is perhaps the most fundamental way that Sept. 11 is linked to Saddam Hussein’s Iraq: the latter did not plan or hatch the former, but the former taught Washington a lesson about the danger of failing to confront threats before they are fully formed. In the same manner, the appeasement of Hitler at Munich at once had nothing and everything to do with how America responded to Stalin and his successors in Berlin, Korea, Cuba and Afghanistan.

President Bush wasn’t the only one to conclude that 9/11 had changed the rules of the game. As Sen. John Kerry asked in 2002, “Can we afford to ignore the possibility that Saddam Hussein might accidentally, as well as purposely, allow those

weapons to slide off to one group or another in a region where weapons are the currency of trade?”

Note what was taken for granted in his statement – that Saddam Hussein possessed “those weapons,” the kind that killed entire villages in northern Iraq, the kind that deformed generations of Kurds, the kind he hid from the United Nations throughout the 1990s, the kind that can be used to blackmail or checkmate America. “Those weapons” were the ones that even Jacques Chirac and Hans Blix believed Saddam Hussein possessed. “Those weapons” were then, and remain today, the seed of nightmares.

Yet “those weapons” were not the only reason Washington decided to finish the war Saddam began in 1990. In fact, in the Iraq war resolution of 2002, a sizable majority in Congress noted that it had been U.S. policy since 1998 “to support efforts to remove from power the current Iraqi regime and promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime,” that Iraq posed a threat to U.S. national security by “continuing to possess and develop a significant chemical and biological weapons capability, actively seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and supporting and harboring terrorist organizations” and that “the attacks on the United States of Sept. 11, 2001, underscored the gravity of the threat posed by the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by international terrorist organizations.”

In short, there was no bait-and-switch. And if there was, 77 senators and 296 House members were right in the middle of it. Hence, it is disingenuous for so many of them to claim they were tricked into supporting the Iraq war. Simply put, they are too savvy to have been duped into supporting the war – and one hopes their constituents are too savvy to be duped into believing they opposed it all along.

... we stayed too long.

By invading Kuwait in summer 1990, Saddam Hussein left the defenseless Saudis with two options: cut a deal and surrender, or allow the Americans to dig in. The Saudis chose the latter.

Kuwait was ultimately liberated and

Saddam Hussein was weakened, but Washington declared a cease-fire before the American juggernaut could destroy key units of the Republican Guard, which were vital to Saddam's survival.

Deflecting criticisms of the war's imperfect conclusion in their book "A World Transformed," the elder Bush and his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, argued in 1998 that shutting down the ground war at the hundred-hour mark was the right thing to do. "The United States could conceivably still be an occupying power in a bitterly hostile land," they concluded.

Of course, that's effectively what happened, at least in the eyes of Osama bin Laden and his followers. Since a wounded Saddam could not be left unattended and an oil-rich Saudi Arabia could not be left unprotected, U.S. troops took up long-term residence in the Saudi kingdom, a fateful decision that started the clock ticking toward 9/11. As bin Laden himself explained in his oft-quoted 1996 fatwa, his central aim was "to expel the occupying enemy from the country of the two Holy places."

Put another way, bin Laden's *casus belli* was an unintended and unforeseen byproduct of what Saddam Hussein had done in 1990.

The presence of U.S. troops in the land of Mecca and Medina had galvanized al-Qaeda, which carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, which triggered America's global war on terror, which inevitably led back to Iraq, which is where America finds itself today. In a sense, occupation was inevitable after Desert Storm; perhaps the United States ended up occupying the wrong country.

... we left too early.

If the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia sparked bin Laden's global guerrilla war, America's low threshold for casualties would serve as the fuel to keep it raging.

From bin Laden's vantage point, America's retreats from Beirut in the 1980s, Mogadishu in the 1990s and Yemen in 2000 were evidence of weakness. "When tens of your soldiers were killed in minor battles and one American pilot was

dragged in the streets of Mogadishu, you left the area carrying disappointment, humiliation, defeat and your dead with you," he recalled. "The extent of your impotence and weaknesses became very clear. It was a pleasure for the heart of every Muslim and a remedy to the chests of believing nations to see you defeated in the three Islamic cities of Beirut, Aden and Mogadishu."

Hence, quitting Iraq could have dramatic and disastrous consequences – something like the fall of Saigon, Desert One, and the Beirut and Mogadishu pullouts all rolled into one giant propaganda victory for the enemy. Not only would it leave a nascent democracy unprotected from bin Laden's henchmen, it would serve to confirm their perception that America is a paper tiger lacking the will to fight or to stand with those who are willing to fight. Who would count on America the next time? For that matter, on whom would America be able to count as the wars of 9/11 continue?

Finally, retreat also would re-energize the enemy and pave the way toward his ultimate goal. Imagine Iraq spawning a Balkan-style ethno-religious war while serving as a Taliban-style springboard for terror. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's top terrorist in Iraq, already has said, "We fight today in Iraq, and tomorrow in the land of the two Holy Places, and after there the West."

Without question, America finds itself on the horns of a dilemma: to leave Iraq too early will invigorate the enemy; to stay on will only irritate the Iraqi people. But neither path will bring about an end to terror's war on America. As one al-Qaeda leader puts it, "the mujahedeen must not have their mission end with the expulsion of the Americans from Iraq."

Peering over the horizon of history, President Bush has concluded it is better for U.S. troops to stand and fight than for America to run and hide: "We must recognize Iraq as the central front in our war against the terrorists."

Or perhaps better said, we must remember what we have forgotten on the long road between 9/11 and today. ☪

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow at Sagamore Institute for Policy Research.

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Inside the Wire

Guantanamo facts contradict U.N. myths.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOHN RAUGHTER



The crux of the controversy can be found on page 36 of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights report on Guantanamo Bay: “The war on terror, as such, does not constitute an armed conflict for the purposes of the applicability of international humanitarian law.”

If the United States is not engaged in an armed conflict, as the U.N. inspectors believe, why hold enemy combatants?

This is a premise that both the Pentagon and The American Legion officially reject. “We are very much at war,” National Commander Thomas L. Bock said during a February visit to the U.S. detention facility on the island of Cuba. “And the people here very much want to kill us.”

“We have several hundred terrorists, bad people – people (who) if they went back out on the field would try to kill Americans,” Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said after the report was released. “That’s just a fact. And to close that place and pretend that merely there’s no problem, it just isn’t realistic.”

Since photographs surfaced in 2002 of the first detainees in orange jumpsuits kneeling inside the wire fences of Camp X-Ray, the remote prison has been a public-relations lightning rod. Former President Jimmy Carter has called for its closure. So has the chancellor of Germany and other world leaders. Most of the critics have never been there.

“Camp X-Ray was always meant to be a temporary facility,” said Maj. Jeff Weir, a Guantanamo spokesman. “It was only open for a couple of months. The photos that the media keep showing over and over again are

four years old. Conditions have improved a lot since then.”

Indeed they have. Detainees are now housed at Camp Delta, a more permanent structure consisting of four detention centers. It includes a state-of-the-art hospital, exercise equipment, a ping-pong table, a soccer field, and basketball and volleyball courts. The U.S. government spends \$12.68 per prisoner daily on a 4,200-calorie diet of culturally appropriate meals, including steak, fish, chicken, rice, fresh fruit and vegetables. The average detainee at Guantanamo weighs 6 pounds more than when he arrived. These facts are not mentioned in the U.N. report, perhaps because its authors declined invitations to visit Camp Delta.

Instead, the authors – or “rapporteurs,” in U.N.-speak – rely entirely on the words of ex-detainees, detainee lawyers and unclassified documents released by the military. The chairman of the group, Leila Zerrougui, is a judge on the Supreme Court of Algeria, a country with a questionable human-rights record, at best. The U.N. Human Rights Commission itself has been an embarrassment to the world body, because it includes nations such as Sudan, Cuba and China and just two years ago was chaired by Libya.

The five rapporteurs declined invitations to visit the Guantanamo facility because military officials refused to permit detainee interviews.

There are sound reasons for the refusal. First, officials already know what the detainees would likely say. An al-Qaeda training manual that first surfaced in Manchester,



England, in 2000 instructs members to claim torture and mistreatment during detention by “infidels.” Of even more concern is this passage from Lesson 18 of the Manchester manual: “Take advantage of visits to communicate with brothers outside prison and exchange information that may be helpful to them in their work outside prison (according to what occurred during the investigations). The importance of mastering the art of hiding messages is self-evident here.”

In the unlikely event that detainees say they are not being mistreated, the military would be accused of using them for propaganda – a violation of international law.

Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, is bothered by what he sees as slanderous attacks on his troops by the media: “You read articles about beatings and torture, and nothing could be further from the truth. These stories are coming from attorneys representing men in the camp.”

By March 2006, 267 detainees had been released from Guantanamo. Of those, 80 were transferred to the custody of other governments, and a dozen were later killed or recaptured on the battlefield.

While the Geneva Conventions do not require custodial hearings for prisoners of war, detainees at Guantanamo do get their days in court. Combat Status Review Tribunals, conducted on the island, determine if a detainee meets the criteria to be considered an enemy combatant. His status is then reviewed annually by an administrative review board.

“This is not a correctional facility; it’s a

Camp Delta includes a fully-equipped hospital, a soccer yard, basketball court, and culturally-appropriate meals with bread baked daily. “Prayer cones” are placed in corridors so guards don’t disrupt the five daily prayer periods of Islamic detainees. Korans are wrapped in surgical masks allowing guards to avoid direct handling because of religious sensitivities. Each cell includes an arrow pointing toward Mecca, the direction in which Muslims are required to pray.

detention center,” said Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, public-affairs spokesman for the Joint Task Force. “They are kept here because they are deemed likely to return to the battlefield and because they have intelligence value.”

A Pentagon document released last year indicates that the United States is safer because of those detentions. “One detainee who assaulted Guantanamo guards on numerous occasions crafted a weapon in his cell and stated he can go back home and kill as many Americans as possible, or leave in a box. Either way it’s the same to him,” the memo stated. Another detainee once served as Osama bin Laden’s bodyguard and had eight surface-to-air missiles in his possession when captured. Detainees have also told interrogators how they were trained by al-Qaeda to build bombs and work with poisons.

Despite the great cuisine, some detainees have engaged in hunger strikes. The military’s policy of preserving life through lawful, clinical means is consistent with U.S. federal corrections facilities. In March 2006 there were only five detainees who engaged in hunger strikes. Three were nourished through feeding tubes as a last resort. This life-saving technique came under fire by the U.N. rappor-

teurs, who wrote, “According to reports by the defence counsels, some of the methods used to force-feed definitely amounted to torture.”

One Gitmo official told Bock that extraordinary precautions are taken to *not* offend the detainees, including the removal of U.S. Flags from logos on bottled water. Female observers are asked not to wear skirts during tribunals – some detainees find them distasteful due to religious reasons – and Korans are wrapped in surgical masks by guards before handling.

“We are too kind,” Bock said, admitting that he would probably react to abuse from detainees much differently than many of the guards.

After seeing an early draft of the U.N. report, Ambassador Kevin Edward Moley, the permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, wrote a scathing rebuttal: “The Unedited Report is presented as a set of conclusions – it selectively includes only those factual assertions needed to support those conclusions and ignores other facts that would undermine those conclusions. As a result, we categorically object to most of the Unedited Report’s content and conclusions as largely without merit and not based clearly in the facts.”

The Heritage Foundation’s Nile Gardiner and James Carafano were harsher. “As the U.N. tries desperately to recover from waves of corruption scandals, it seeks to shift attention to its favorite target, Washington’s prosecution of the war on terrorism,” they wrote. “The Guantanamo report, based on little more than innuendo, unsubstantiated claims and conjecture, is just such a ploy and deserves to be rejected out of hand.”

The most startling proposal comes from attorneys who want detainees released onto the streets of the United States. One group of detainees, the Uighurs, hail from western China. Even though a military tribunal has ruled that five



National Commander Thomas L. Bock looks outside the gate at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. On the Cuban side is a Spanish sign proclaiming “Republic of Cuba, Territory Free of America.”

Uighurs are no longer enemy combatants, they are kept in a privileged section of the prison because it is believed they will be punished or killed by the Chinese government if sent home.

“Home is China, and in China you disappear into a dungeon and no one ever hears from you again,” lawyer Sabin Willett told the Associated Press. He is trying to have them sent to Washington. “These guys are not a risk to anyone. They should be released here.”

Still, releasing detainees – any detainee – is not without risk. The 12 killed or recaptured since their Guantanamo release are just the ones the Department of Defense knows about. No one can say how many are still fighting or are planning future attacks. *National Journal’s* Corine Hegland, a vociferous critic of Guantanamo, even asks in an article, “Raise your hand if you want to be responsible for releasing the man who next flies an airplane into a skyscraper.”

One interrogator fears what might happen if certain detainees are released. “I have been fighting these bastards for 30 years, since they were with the PLO,” he said. “I have no doubt that if some of these guys can get their hands on a nuclear weapon, they won’t hesitate to set it off in one of our cities.” 🌿

John Raughter is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Gitmo at a glance

U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is the oldest U.S. base overseas and the only one in a communist country. Located 400 miles off the coast of Miami on the southeast corner of Cuba, the base has been leased from Cuba since 1903. Stipulations of the lease, which was reaffirmed in 1934, require that the lease can only be terminated with the consent of both parties. Although the United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961, it chose to continue leasing the land for \$4,085 annually. In 1964, Cuban leader Fidel Castro cut off water and supplies to the base. Since then, Guantanamo Bay has been self-sufficient with its own desalination plant, producing 3.4 million gallons of water and more than 800,000 kilowatt hours of electricity daily.

Source: U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

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[EPITAPHS]

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[SUPREME COURT]

"A military recruiter's mere presence on campus does not violate a law school's right to associate, regardless of how repugnant the law school considers the recruiter's message."

U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice

John Roberts, writing for the court in a unanimous decision March 6 to uphold a law that allows the federal government to withhold funds from universities that deny military recruiters campus access. The American Legion filed an amicus curiae brief in support of the Solomon Amendment, which mandates universities to provide the military the same access as other recruiters or forfeit federal grant dollars. Opposition came from law schools that argued the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuality is discriminatory.

"We are relieved that the high court put this issue to rest once and for all. We applaud all the justices for their sound affirmation of a strong national security policy that will ensure our military remains the very best in the world."

American Legion National Commander
Thomas L. Bock, responding to the ruling

[MEMORIAL DAY]

THEY CALL IT VALOR

He was a medic assigned to a rifle platoon. More than that, he was an individual who had strong personal beliefs and deep religious convictions that may have cost him his life in the rotting jungles of Vietnam's Central Highlands. Specialist 4th Class John Odierno served five months under my command. A clear distinction did not always exist between his superior performance of duties and his responsible way of life.

When drafted, Odierno submitted paperwork to have himself classified as a conscientious objector. He turned down an honorable discharge and opted for service in Vietnam as a combat medic. While his deeply held religious convictions precluded his bearing of arms or taking a life, they did not prevent him from meeting a strong, moral belief of serving his country and his fellow man. I first noticed SP4 Odierno shortly after I assumed command of his rifle company. He did more than merely come to my attention, for he was at once both conspicuous and unique. But it was not his stature that called my attention to him. Standing an unimposing 5-foot-10, he strode tall among his fellow grunts – those infantry foot sloggers who daily humped the steep, rugged mountains or slashed their way through dense, putrefying jungle or sweated under a blazing tropical sun in the infamous Ia Drang Valley.

On our daily treks in search of the North Vietnamese Army, SP4 Odierno was the personification of a wholesome, well-adjusted American young man strolling cheerfully down Main Street, USA. He, like all of us, was acutely aware of the possibility of a sudden, fierce encounter with the NVA; we were operating along the tri-border area of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Engagements were frequent, and the men were under constant strain anticipating the next deadly clash.

Odierno did more than share the men's fear. He understood it, and with wisdom, compassion and empathy beyond his years, he eased it. He not only dispensed medical care for wounds, cuts and bruises, he also dispensed wit to ease tension. His genuine concern for their welfare helped allay fears. He seemed to draw his strength from some deep, inner source. I was never able to ascertain if it was belief in himself, his belief in a cause, or his belief in God.

Upon reaching the top of a mountain after a long,



arduous climb, Odierno was often observed dropping his own combat pack and repeatedly disappearing down the mountainside to offer encouragement to others. More often than not, he reappeared carrying combat packs belonging to men on the verge of exhaustion. He energetically assisted them in digging their foxholes for the night, before turning to start on his own.

No one could remember him ever uttering a complaint or saying an unkind word. His broad, infectious smile brought a sense of well-being and tranquility to all. He was more than a buddy; he was a person who truly cared about them. His untiring performance of duty was certainly in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army, yet it mirrored his belief in man.

On March 21, 1967, SP4 Odierno threw himself on top of a wounded soldier, removed his own helmet and used it to protect the face of his patient, and silently died when a burst of enemy fire ripped through his body. I remember him every Memorial Day. He was posthumously awarded the Silver

Star, this nation's third highest military award, for conspicuous gallantry in action. The Army called his sacrifice valor. I call it love for man. But then, I'm prejudiced. I was the wounded soldier Odierno saved that fateful day.

– Rick Rykowski, *Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, Vietnam War*

SP4 John W. Odierno, right, was killed March 21, 1967, in Kontum Province, Vietnam. He was 20 years old. His name can be found at Panel 17E, Line 11, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. He is buried at Long Island National Cemetery in New York.



[WASHINGTON CONFERENCE]

Texas senator receives Legion's highest award

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, received The American Legion's prestigious Distinguished Public Service Award during the 46th annual Washington Conference in late February.



"Since she was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1993 as the first woman to represent her state in that chamber, Sen. Hutchison has remained a stalwart supporter of U.S. military veterans and their families," National Commander Thomas L. Bock said. "Her commitment to a strong national defense, a VA health-care system second to none, and her staunch support of a constitutional amendment to protect the flag of the United States are appreciated by the veterans of this nation."

The award was given during the Legion's annual legislative rally, attended by more than 1,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion. It is presented to government leaders who excel in their commitment to public service through strong leadership and exceptional performance.

Hutchison chairs the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs subcommittee and serves as a member of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Legion honors 'Sgt. Shaft' columnist

Writer and Vietnam War veteran John Fales, a.k.a. "Sgt. Shaft," received the National Commander's Public Relations Award. His humor, empathy for the underdog, and strong love of country and fellow veterans are showcased weekly in the *Washington Times*. Fales is president of the Blinded American Veterans Foundation.



SJR 12

THE FLAG AMENDMENT COUNTDOWN TO VICTORY

Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., promises to bring **S.J. Res. 12**, the flag amendment, to a vote on the Senate floor the week of June 26.

The amendment reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

It is important for Legion family members to communicate with their senators their desire to see the flag protected. Urge their support of the amendment. If your senators are co-sponsors, thank them for their support. If not, urge them to become official co-sponsors of

S.J. Res. 12. A complete list of where the U.S. Senate stands on the issue can be found on the Citizens Flag Alliance Web site.

www.cfa-inc.org

Telephone numbers for U.S. senators' district offices can be obtained from the blue pages of your local phone book or by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard. **(202) 224-3121**

Members of the Senate are also accessible via the Internet. Legionnaires can contact them through The American Legion Legislative Action Center.

capwiz.com/legion/dbq/officials/



**'We cannot allow
the gross offense ...
of flag desecration.'**

AP



American Legacy Run

**For fund-raising materials and
registration information, contact:**

Bill Sloan
National Headquarters Liaison
American Legion Riders
(317) 630-1321
wsloan@legion.org

[AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS]

The American Legacy Run

Hundreds of wartime veterans on motorcycles of all shapes, sizes and colors will roar across the Midwest, across the Great Plains, over the Rockies, and into the deserts of Utah en route to Salt Lake City and the 88th Annual American Legion National Convention this summer. The 1,700-mile journey is not just a joy ride. It's a way to raise college scholarship funds for the children of U.S. military personnel who have died defending our freedoms since Sept. 11, 2001.

Led by Legion National Commander Thomas L. Bock, the American Legacy Run will kick off Aug. 17 near the Legion's National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Riders from the East Coast and the Midwest will join in a fund-raising rally

Majority leader urges colleagues to vote for Old Glory's protection

BY BILL FRIST

U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Ever since the Boy Scouts first taught me how to care for our flag over 40 years ago, it has always held a special place in my heart. We begin our work day in the U.S. Senate with the Pledge of Allegiance, and I proudly display the flag outside my offices in Washington.

Like over 80 percent of Americans and all 50 of our state legislatures, I believe that the U.S. Constitution should allow the federal government to protect our flag. Since 1989, however, the Supreme Court has overturned 200 years of precedent and struck down all laws that prohibit flag desecration.

Since I first won election to the Senate in 1994, I have supported a constitutional amendment to protect our flag. At every stage, The American Legion has provided invaluable assistance. Despite continual, bipartisan efforts to pass a flag-protection amendment, and support from an overwhelming majority of House and Senate members, the measure has repeatedly failed to get the 67 votes it needs to pass the Senate.

I hope things will change this year.

Before Congress adjourns for its July Fourth recess – most probably during the week of June 26 – I will put before the Senate a one-sentence amendment to the Constitution: “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” I plan to argue for it on the Senate floor, and I hope my colleagues will vote for it.

Many Americans have come to see the flag as a sacred symbol of our nation and its values. Americans have the right, and sometimes the duty, to

protest government actions. Those who dislike American values have the right to express their opinions even when they are offensive. But I do not believe that the right to desecrate a symbol like our flag belongs in the same category.

In conversation with veterans, teachers, police officers, public servants and other Americans from every walk of life, I've come to see that the flag is a vitally important symbol with a near-sacred civic meaning. All too many veterans have seen comrades die defending the flag, and nearly all Americans who have traveled abroad know the feelings of pride the flag evokes upon a return home. The flag stands for our nation but also for its values: freedom, justice, independence, equality and, ultimately, the people themselves. An attack on the flag isn't just an issue of fundamental disagreement with the government but rather an attack on our country and her people.

We should promote all manner of free political discussion, but we cannot allow the gross offense and indecency of flag desecration. People who would otherwise desecrate flags can still say whatever they want, but they should not be allowed to take actions that so offend the vast majority of Americans.

The founders devised a process to amend the Constitution specifically so that the people, through their elected representatives, could bring our country's most fundamental laws into line with their values. It's time we act to protect our flag and the values it represents. I hope this June that the Senate will stand up for American values and pass the flag-protection amendment.

45

Veterans will rumble across country to raise funds

sponsored by The American Legion Riders of Indiana to raise money for the American Legacy Scholarship program.

The next morning, Bock and the riders will head west on Interstate 70 through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado, north along I-25 from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyo., and then west along I-80 to Salt Lake City.

Bock will stop in every state to collect donations. A delegation of Riders will formally present him a check for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund onstage at the National Convention.

All who register will receive a souvenir map book, vest patch and vehicle proof of registration.



[PATRIOTISM]

"And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

— John F. Kennedy

A place in our hearts for honor

BY DEIDRE THOMAS



Clinton Keller

All we ask is a moment of your time

At 3 p.m. Monday, May 29, Major League Baseball games will stop, Amtrak train whistles will blast, and thousands of Americans will pause for the Memorial Day National Moment of Remembrance.

Other participants include NASCAR, military installations, veterans service organizations, schools, universities, hospitals, retirement communities, shopping malls, national parks, airports, bus lines and the International Space Station. All U.S. citizens, wherever they may be at 3 p.m. local time, are asked to join in this nationwide moment of reflection.

Congress established the White House Commission on Remembrance in 2000, to promote the Moment of Remembrance and the values of Memorial Day throughout the year. The American Legion is a partner in this effort.

We have walls full of names of deceased individuals from wars we find distant in history. There was a time when banners were raised and pictures of those serving were displayed in windows. Today, in the war for Iraqi freedom, some wear wristbands saying they support our troops, while others post banners that blame the president and scream hatred toward our troops. These messages are found coast to coast.

I recently spoke to one man in the Army. I told him my thanks, and he replied it was just his job. He thanked me and said it was great that I write to U.S. service-members at war. I see it as a simple measure to let them know the voice of protest is not the only one speaking in America.

What tugs on my heart most, to the point that it angers me, is that U.S. civilians who protest on American soil are safe from harm thanks to those they oppose. They are ignorant of the orders our troops must follow. They have forgotten that many go back for multiple tours of duty because they believe no man should be left

behind and that America must do what it has promised to do in war.

I can't remember the last time I saw an individual walk up to someone proudly wearing a U.S. military uniform, or step up to a retired veteran wearing a hat like my grandfather wore, and thank him. To all who lived on MREs, gave up comfortable beds for a year or more, removed themselves from family, suffered wounds, and witnessed blood, death, heartache or mental breakdown, America needs to listen and give thanks.

Whatever happened to the spirit of President Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country"? Did we bury that spirit at Arlington?

I have nothing but thanks for those serving near and far. I cry when "Taps" is played. I cherish the image of my grandfather in uniform, in a weathered old photograph. I walk up to strangers in uniform and thank them. I cry for the soldier who says he has done nothing for which to be thanked. I long to bring forth the America my grandfather served to protect, the one that stands behind its men and women until all are home safe. I challenge America to return to the same patriotic nation veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam fought to protect. That's the America my brother-in-law and father proudly serve. Today, tomorrow and years from now, they deserve our thanks and should receive them proudly. It's more than just doing a job.

Deidre Thomas, 22, lives in Fort Wayne, Ind.

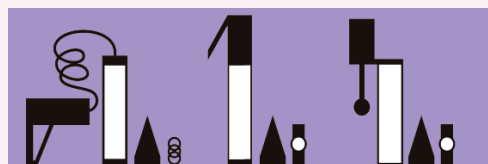


Now you too can beat **ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**

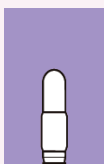
Erectile Dysfunction (ED) effects about 30 million men in the USA. The causes are varied and range from psychological reasons to health conditions. But serious as it is, some men still compound the problem by not taking steps to deal with it. The result – often a complete breakdown in their most intimate relationship.

“My diagnosis of cancer came as a shock to myself and my wife – little did we know that it would also end our intimate experiences... that was until we found the Vacurect™ vacuum therapy system. So simple and easy to use... after several months of use I began to regain my normal function.” – Mobile, AL.

Vacurect™ was designed by a 47 year old professional engineer who was experiencing ED himself. With the assistance of urologists and sexologists, he decided to tackle the problems of bulkiness and awkward method of use inherent in traditional Vacuum Erection Device (VED) design. The breakthrough result is an extremely compact and easy to use solution... see for yourself!



Typical conventional VEDS



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Fallen Comrades of the 357th FG

The 357th Fighter Group scored 595 aerial victories in 15 months of combat during World War II. This painting depicts Capt. Eddie Simpson pulling up as the "missing man." His P-51, "The Flying Panther," was purchased with war-bond donations collected by high-school students in his hometown of East Orange, N.J. On Aug. 10, 1944, Simpson survived a midair collision over Sens, France, but was later killed fighting off a column of Nazis that had attacked during a funeral Simpson was attending there. His heroism on the day he was killed blocked the road long enough to allow hundreds of French freedom fighters to escape. A monument in his honor was erected in the village of Ouzouer-sur-Loire. In the "Gentleman Jim" was Jim Browning of Syracuse, Kan., who later vanished after a midair collision with a high-ranking German officer in a

Me-262. Col. Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson of California, flying the "Old Crow," was an ace who flew 116 missions and scored 16½ aerial victories during his two World War II combat tours. He was decorated 26 times before retiring from the Air Force in 1972, a year after he flew bombing strikes to cut off enemy supply lines in Vietnam. He later authored "To Fly and Fight – Memoirs of a Triple Ace." Capt. William B. Overstreet of Clifton Forge, Va., flew the "Berlin Express" on numerous missions for the Fighter Group. After the war, he became general manager of Charleston Aviation and now lives in Virginia. He recently donated a signed, numbered print of Stan Stokes' "Fallen Comrades of the 357th FG" to The American Legion National Headquarters, where it now hangs. www.stanstokesart.com

[ENVIRONMENT]

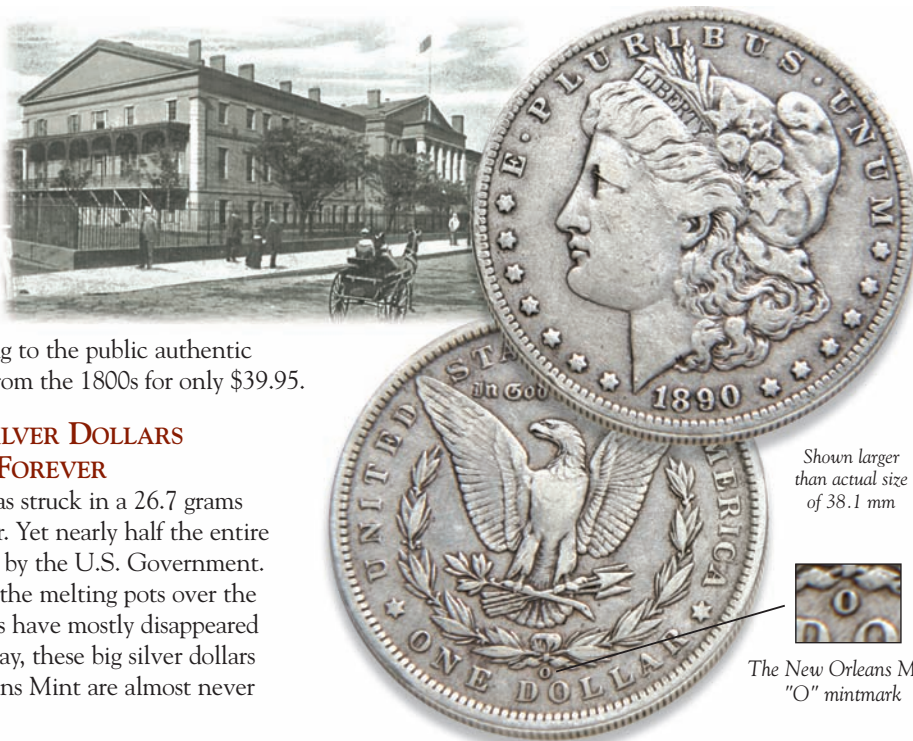
On the water front ...

A recent study by Earth Policy Institute tallies the hidden costs of bottled water, including the sobering fact that America's demand for it "requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually." The study also found:

- ◆ At up to \$10 per gallon, bottled water costs more than gasoline.
- ◆ Bottled-water consumption has doubled in the last six years. Predictably, America chugs the most, followed by Mexico, China, Brazil, Italy and Germany.
- ◆ Bottled water is often no healthier than tap water, but it can cost 10,000 times more.
- ◆ Only 14 percent of water bottles used in the United States are recycled.
- ◆ Rapid growth in the bottled-water industry may be draining water reserves from communities that produce it. Shortages have been reported in at least two locations near bottling plants.

NEW ORLEANS SILVER DOLLARS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION!

From 1879 to 1904, the United States Mint at New Orleans struck Morgan Silver Dollars, the most famous and collected American coin in the world. Today, "O" Mint Morgans are among the most sought-after in the entire series. Now, The First Federal Mint is releasing to the public authentic New Orleans silver dollars from the 1800s for only \$39.95.



Shown larger
than actual size
of 38.1 mm

The New Orleans Mint
"O" mintmark

PRECIOUS SILVER DOLLARS LOST FOREVER

The Morgan Silver dollar was struck in a 26.7 grams of 90% pure American silver. Yet nearly half the entire mintage was melted in 1918 by the U.S. Government. Millions more fell victim to the melting pots over the years. The little that remains have mostly disappeared into private collections. Today, these big silver dollars from the historic New Orleans Mint are almost never seen by the public.

Now, The First Federal Mint is releasing a hoard of original New Orleans Mint Morgans dated from 1879 to 1899. While they last, you may acquire one for just \$39.95, \$145 for a five-coin collector roll, and \$289 for a 10-coin Bankers roll (plus S&H).

THE HISTORY OF NEW ORLEANS IN YOUR HANDS

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Telemedical revolution

VA leads the industry in serving patients over the Internet.

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

In this era of e-mail, the Internet and video conferencing, it's not hard to imagine a long-distance consultation between doctor and patient. What may surprise you, though, is the extent to which "telemedicine" has become a part of everyday health care.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the VA health-care system. By 2000, VA was providing more than 300,000 "telemedicine" consultations per year, and the agency has been cited by the Institute of Medicine for its pace-setting work in this area. Moreover, VA researchers have contributed dozens of papers to medical literature documenting that, in many cases, telemedicine is as effective as face-to-face care.

Telemedicine generally involves physicians. The broader term "telehealth" refers to any effort that provides clinical care, patient education or support services through telecommunications.

VA uses telemedicine to provide care in more than 30 medical specialty areas, and thousands more patients each year stand to benefit from these efforts. VA recently established a center in Lake City, Fla., to train staff in home telehealth. A telehealth training center is in the works in Salt Lake City, and Boston is the site of a new VA center devoted to



PhotoAlto

training staff in teleretinal imaging. Additional initiatives will expand telehealth services for veterans suffering serious chronic conditions, such as spinal-cord injury or multiple sclerosis.

Cost benefits to VA – and U.S. taxpayers – can't be ignored. In 2002, the results of a pilot program in Florida showed a 40-percent reduction in emergency-room visits and a 63-percent drop in hospital and nursing-home admissions when telehealth was used to help treat patients in their homes. Nine in 10 patients said they were satisfied with the program.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

What is telemedicine?

Visiting nurses can digitally photograph homebound patients' skin wounds and e-mail the images to a secure Web site, where they are viewed online or downloaded by physicians.

Psychiatrists conduct interactive video sessions with veterans in rural areas who suffer from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder or other conditions.

Veterans with diabetes can undergo eye exams at their primary-care clinics that include specialized imaging of their retinas; the images are then sent electronically to experts who check for signs of diabetic retinopathy.

Patients with heart disease can use text-messaging devices at home to report their vital signs to hospital staff, who monitor the reports daily.

Veterans continue to give VA high marks

The American Customer Satisfaction Index annually gauges veteran satisfaction with VA health-care services and compares findings with the private sector. For the sixth straight year, VA health care received an inpatient care satisfaction rate of 83 out of 100, compared to 73 in the private sector. Outpatient care scored an 80, compared to 75 by the private sector.



Aging is Natural. Giving Up on Your Sexual Health Isn't!

Bring Back the Best Years of Your Life!
Here's how one man did it!

Dear Readers:

Although this would otherwise be an embarrassing subject – I feel strongly about sharing a recent experience with others my age.

Simply put ... *I'm 57 years old and even though I'm in overall good health, my body just doesn't respond sexually like it used to.*

Recently, I found myself struggling to "perform". I began losing my confidence and my sex drive with it. I was feeling a great deal of pressure and embarrassment and my wife was beginning to think it was something she did or didn't do – it wasn't.

I wasn't comfortable discussing my situation with anyone – not even my doctor – so in a desperate attempt to find some help, I privately did some research on the web.

First, I found that many HEALTHY men experience a decrease in stamina and performance with age. **I wasn't alone!** Good blood circulation is key to maintaining a strong erection and apparently there are a number of factors that can weaken it.

Armed with this new information, I began to search through the many "male enhancement" and potency products on the net. I found a pill for everything and anything but among the various pills and patches – **one product stood out – Maxoderm! Not a pill or a patch, this surprisingly effective topical formula is delivered directly to the "source", where I need it most.** I don't need to swallow a pill, prescription drug or not, or wear some kind of patch on my shoulder.

After trying Maxoderm just once, I could actually feel it working immediately! And it felt incredible! What a difference! I couldn't believe it – virility and stamina like I haven't felt in years! My driver's license says I'm 57 but thanks to Maxoderm, my wife says I'm 18 again! It felt great! I now know it's normal to experience some problems with sexual performance at our age but Maxoderm let me deal with it naturally. No pills – no patches – and even better – no embarrassing appointment with the doctor.

Try Maxoderm. You'll feel it working immediately – then you can get back to living your life again.

Jim, S.
Miami, FL

P.S. Maxoderm actually offers a 120 Day RISK FREE Program. They will even give you the FIRST MONTH ABSOLUTELY FREE. So, do what I did – take the first step toward sexual health and call 1-800-264-8513 or visit www.maxoderm.com. With a 100% Money Back Guarantee you've got nothing to lose.

Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

AL0506



**“ My driver's
license says
I'm 57, but my
wife says I'm
18 again! ”**



[ACTIVE DUTY]

His and hers bombers

It only makes sense that a history-making warplane would have a history-making crew. In what *Air Force News* labels a “historical first,”



Rob and Beth Makros are assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri – home of the vaunted B-2 Stealth Bomber.

Both are captains in the Air Force, both are graduates of the Air Force Academy, and both served in combat during the war on terror. However, they have flown different aircraft to prepare for their

B-2 service – he in F-15E Strike Eagles, she in B-1 Bombers.

The Makros’ aircraft specialties usually kept them on different bases. But by July, the couple will be based together at Whiteman. “The 509th Bomb Wing is fortunate to gain two superbly talented aviators who will now become part of an elite team that can deliver mass, precision and stealth anytime, anywhere,” said Lt. Col. Steve Moulton, commander of the 349th Combat Training Squadron.

The captains told *Air Force News* they plan to fly the B-2 for three to five years.



U.S. Air Force

“We are not at war with Mexico.”

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano after issuing a March order to send more National Guardsmen to the Mexican border to stop illegal immigration and related crime, supplementing 170 already there.

[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

Legionnaires across the nation personally delivered dozens of \$500 checks from the Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes to disabled Iraq war veterans during the holidays and continued to do so in the weeks that followed. Several posts also sponsored parties for the veterans and their families.



Post 57, Vinton, Iowa A fish fry turned into a nightmare for members of the George G. Luckey post last September, when oil from fryers caught fire and destroyed the post’s historic home. Four months later, crews tore down what was left. “Like the phoenix rising out of the ashes, hopefully we’ll come out better than we were,” Post Commander Vince Blank said.

The post has temporarily relocated to a supper club and resumed business. Only a popcorn machine survived the fire, but help came swiftly from neighboring communities. “Post 5 in Cedar Rapids donated about 75 chairs and 40 tables, as well as a bingo machine,” Blank says. Meeting attendance is higher now than it was before the fire.

“We may be down, but we ain’t out,” said Post 57 Adjutant Tracy Sellers. “The day after the fire, someone raised a flag on the pole that was still on top of what remained of the building.”

Post 71, Duluth, Minn. Years ago, the Duluth, Minn., military funeral honor guard turned to American Legion Post 71 to bolster its ranks. Still, only about 20 of the honor guard’s 30 members were fully active. So the honor guard called on the local Sons of The American Legion squadron.

However, the Department of Defense did not want anyone other than Legion or VFW members handling the M-1 ceremonial rifles. The Legion’s National Security division soon intervened and cleared the way for SAL members to perform the duty. A misunderstanding concerned the average age of an SAL member, which is 43.

[BENEFITS]

Injured troops can file for insurance funds

Soldiers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are among the first to benefit from new traumatic-injury protection through the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program.

TSGLI provides monetary assistance to soldiers and their families who have suffered injuries resulting in a traumatic loss, such as loss of limbs, sight or hearing, or brain trauma.

Soldiers may qualify for the retroactive benefit if they suffered a qualifying loss due to a traumatic injury while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, 2005. Coverage under SGLI is not required.

For more information, visit www.aw2.army.mil/tsgli or call toll-free (800) 237-1336.

[FAITH]

The Army chaplaincy, then and now

Listed in USA Today's "10 Great Places to Learn U.S. Military History," the new U.S. Army Chaplain Museum at Fort Jackson, S.C., tells the story of the Army chaplaincy from the Revolutionary War to the current war on terror.

Exhibits include vestments worn by Father Francis Duffy of the New York Fighting 69th and Korean War POW Father Emil Kapaun, altars and other chaplain equipment from World War II, stained-glass windows from the Fort Benjamin Harrison chapel and early photos of U.S. wartime chaplaincy.

For more information about the museum, call (803) 751-8079 or go to www.usachcs.army.mil and click on "Museum."

[BY THE NUMBERS]

Index of change

30 Percentage by which Iraq's per-capita income increased between 2004 and 2005

17 Percentage by which Iraq's gross domestic product is expected to climb by the end of 2006

3:1 Ratio of Iraqi parents who say education is better now than it was before the war

71 Percentage of Iraqis who say, according to a poll conducted by Oxford Research International, that life is "good"

61 Percentage of Iraqis who say security is good in their area

44 Number of Iraqi commercial TV stations today

72 Number of Iraqi commercial radio stations today

0 Number of Iraqi commercial radio or TV stations in 2003

Source: American Enterprise Institute

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¹Comprehensive Plan provides coverage through the gap with generic drugs.

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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

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AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

1st Radio Relay Sqdn, Las Vegas, 9/12-14, William Hayton, (304) 486-5349, wshayton@netzero.net; **1st Radio Sqdn Mobile, 6920th, 21st, 89th Sec Serv (Japan & Korea)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/17-20, Philip Perry, (717) 545-0974, perryper101@aol.com; **9th Air Corps 373rd Ftr Grp 412th Ftr Sqdn**, Millville, NJ, 8/21-23, John R. Kinn, (419) 626-1114, johnkinn4@aol.com; **11th Bomb Grp**, Washington, 8/31-9/4, Phil Gudenschwager, (480) 945-9119; **56th Ftr Grp Assn**, Fairborn, OH, 6/28-7/2, Ron Brubaker, (304) 866-4415, rlcif@frontiernet.net; **57th Bomb Wing Assn (WWII)** – 12th Bomb Grp (81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th Bomb Sqdns), 310th Bomb Grp (379th, 380th, 381st, 428th Bomb Sqdns), 319th Bomb Grp (437th, 438th, 439th, 440th Bomb Sqdns), 321st Bomb Grp (445th, 446th, 447th, 448th Bomb Sqdns), 340th Bomb Grp (486th, 487th, 488th, 416th Bomb Grp, Louisville, KY, 8/10-13, Ralph Conte, (573) 817-9247

64th Trp Carrier Grp, Ogden, UT, 9/27-30, C. Kay Stowell, (801) 782-0098; **98th Bomb Grp/Wing (All Years)**, Orlando, FL, 10/31-11/4, Dennis Posey, (770) 509-7734, dposey@comcast.net; **454th Bomb Sqdn, 323rd Bomb Grp (B-26, WWII)**, Las Vegas, 10/2-5, Frank A. Johnson, (630) 355-5273, fjoh910@aol.com; **456th Bomb Grp (H) (Italy, WWII)**, Covington, KY, 6/21-25, Ed S. Moore, (785) 625-7515, georgia@mooretours.sabre.net; **483rd Bomb Grp (H) Assn**, Arlington, VA, 9/3-10, George Stovall, (541) 758-0009, gstovall@peak.org; **489th Bomb Sqdns, 346th, 324th Serv Sqdns, 308th Sig Wing**, Herndon, VA, 10/12-16, Bob Evans, (317) 247-7507; **551st Abn Early Warning & Cont Wing (Otis AFB, MA)**, Plymouth, MA, 8/29-31, Floyd Shank, (508) 746-5713, easy12@adelphia.net

774th Tact Airlift Sqdn/TCS/Bomb Sqdn "Greenweasels," Abilene, TX, 7/28-29, Butch Stratton, (325) 893-4754, richphyl@camalott.com; **1503rd Supply Sqdn, 1503rd ATW**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/23-26, Ed Bimler, (757) 930-1210, ebimler@cox.net; **6147th Tact Cont Grp 5th AF "Mosquitos" (Korea)**, Atlanta, 9/19-24, Dick Souza, (978) 453-3887, skeeterloc@aol.com; **Avn Cadet & Pilot Tng Class 54-17, 55H & 59H**, Lexington, MA, 9/14-17, regwaggon@aol.com; **Base Air Depot 2, 8th AF**, Blackpool, England, 7/12-18, Ralph Scott, (989) 739-2685, scotttaylor@junio.com; **EC-130H Compass Call, 55th Elec Cbt Grp – 41st & 43rd Elec Cbt Sqdns, 755th Aircraft Maint Sqdn & 755th Opns Support Sqdn**, Tucson, AZ, 6/14-16, Kyle Forrer, (520) 228-

9098, kyle.forrer@dm.af.mil; **Pennsylvania Airways & Air Comm Serv**, DuBois, PA, 7/11-13, Ed Rutkowski, (814) 371-7167; **Pilot Classes of 1944**, Salt Lake City, 10/3-8, Stan Yost, (239) 466-1473; **Pilot Class 54-K**, Branson, MO, 9/11-14, Joe Guerra, (209) 634-1752, joe9152810@cs.com; **Pilot Class 54-M**, Tacoma, WA, 8/23-27, Jim Bradley, (360) 893-6399, jammarr@comcast.net; **Pleiku AB All Dets & Sqdns (South Vietnam, 1962-1972)**, Bowling Green, KY, 8/10-13, Harry Beam, (724) 745-9129; **Women in the AF**, Branson, MO, 10/12-16, Victoria Anderson, (800) 877-8687, victoria@bransonfun.com

ARMY

1st, 8th Cav (Vietnam), Las Vegas, 8/9-13, James C. Knafel, (260) 244-3864, jjknafel@myvine.com; **1st Armd Div Assn (All Eras)**, Louisville, KY, 8/15-20, Joe Theriot, (207) 737-0901; **2nd Armd Div (All Eras)**, Herndon, VA, 9/13-16, Lewis E. Bogart, (570) 546-9415; **3rd Armd Div Assn**, Arlington, VA, 10/6-10, Clarence Smoyer, P.O. Box 2346, South Bend, IN 46680; **3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav**, Kansas City, MO, 7/26-29, Allen Allcock, (660) 885-8297, 4cavalry@iiland.net; **4th, 25th MRU**, Nashville, TN, 5/7-11, Walt Hadley, (239) 656-0486, whamcat1@aol.com; **4th Trans Co, 152nd Maint Det (Medium Heli)**, Bardstoun, KY, 9/20-24, Mike Atkinson, (717) 637-7888, mta@suscom.net; **5th Armd Div (WWII)**, Pittsburgh, 8/24-27, Lou Guzik, (412) 341-8460, 5div@louguzik.com; **5th Inf Div, Society of the 5th Div**, Columbia, SC, 9/1-4, Philip A. Maniscalco, (860) 536-4080, reunion@fifthininfantrydivision.com

5th Msl 517th Arty (Abilene, TX), Abilene, TX, 6/9-11, Byron Penrod, (325) 692-6006, byrod01@aol.com; **6th Armd Div**, Las Vegas, 10/19-22, Donna Dolovy, (602) 249-2440; **8th Bn 4th FA (Vietnam)**, Lawton, OK, 8/10-12, Terry J. Johnson, (815) 469-9473, tjlbighap@yahoo.com; **8th Div 28th Rgt K Co, (Heilbronn, Germany, 1956-1958)**, St. George, UT, 9/15-17, Lee Mortensen, (435) 656-3675, leebeetmort@aol.com; **8th FA Obsn Bn (WWII)**, Springfield, MO, 9/18-21, Clarence Anderson, (580) 479-3272, smokey1@pldi.net; **9th Inf Div (Vietnam, 1966-1969)**, Lava Hot Springs, ID, 6/18-23, Vernon Jensen, (763) 504-9501, vernonhjensen@yahoo.com; **9th Inf Div Bravo Co 3rd of the 60th**, Branson, MO, 10/5-8, Ruhlín Gregory, (309) 694-2792, rdgregory@bwsys.net; **9th Med Lab (Vietnam, 1966-1972)**, St. Ansgar, IA, 6/9-14, Phil Fleischer, (641) 736-2346; **13th Eng Cbt Bn**, St. Louis, 10/5-8, Edward Larkin, (502) 231-3552, eflarkin@earthlink.net; **14th Cav (All Eras)**, Tacoma, WA, 5/31-6/4, Frank Varljen,

(703) 791-6218, f.varljen@verizon.net; **14th Cbt Eng Bn**, Branson, MO, 9/7-9, Roger Heaton, (520) 404-8183, rogerheaton1042@hotmail.com; **19th Cbt Eng Bn Assn (Vietnam)**, Waynesville, MO, 9/8-9, Tom Ebrite, (765) 286-4906, s2snoopy@comcast.net; **21st AAA Bn Assn (Korea)**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/13-15, Lester F. Kenfield, (717) 939-4621, stogie3e@peoplepc.com; **21st Inf Rgt & Attached Units**, Branson, MO, 8/9-12, Phil Burke, (703) 730-9292, gimlet21st@comcast.net; **23rd Inf Rgt (Korea)**, Branson, MO, 9/5-9, Jim Coulos, (630) 232-2042; **23rd Recon Co (Panama)**, Warsaw, IN, 7/7-9, L.T. Doutrich, (330) 336-9468, ltusaret@aol.com; **24th Inf Div All Sports Teams (Augsburg, Germany, 1958-1964)**, Dallas, 6/22-25, Walt Tidmore, (216) 831-5372, walttidmore@yahoo.com; **25th Inf Div Assn**, Honolulu, 9/25-10/1, Glenda Ellis, (215) 248-2572, tropicltn@aol.com

26th Inf Scout Dog Plt, Sturgis, SD, 9/29-10/1, Robert Fickbohm, (605) 456-2636; **27th FA Rgt Assn**, Fayetteville, NC, 6/9-11, James R. Suessmann, (973) 357-0033, jrs.cpa@verizon.net; **29th Div Assn**, Charleston, SC, 10/10-14, Boyd M. Cook, (301) 797-0768, mgcook29@safe.quik.com; **40th Div 160th Inf Rgt (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Nashville, TN, 10/12-15, Duane Whaley, (951) 245-9726; **40th Div 160th Rgt E Co (Korea)**, Harrisburg, PA, 6/28-7/2, Jim Bork, (928) 567-6334, jobork@msn.com; **43rd AAA Bn (Erlangen, Germany, 1955-1956)**, Dubuque, IA, 9/12-13, Ross Grady, (262) 554-8523, rfgady@aol.com; **45th Div 279th Inf L Co**, Wagoner, OK, 10/26-29, Paul Elkins, (907) 260-6612, p.s.elkins@att.net; **50th Cbt Eng A & C Cos**, Albert Lea, MN, 7/21-23, Kermith Twito, (507) 373-6641; **65th Div Assn**, Phoenix, 9/18-21, Ray Callanan, (573) 760-1975

78th Div Vets Assn, Pittsburgh, 8/16-19, H. Gonzales, (412) 364-1609, red78div1@verizon.net; **84th Inf Div "Railsplitters,"** South Fallsburg, NY, 6/6-9, Sy Kuppersmith, (616) 626-1645, symilly@verizon.net; **84th Inf Div Railsplitter Society (WWII)**, Nashville, TN, 9/2-5, Tessa Swinehart, (615) 824-0348; **89th Chem Mortar Bn**, Chicago, 9/8-10, Richard G. McLennand, (412) 331-3802; **90th Div Assn**, Louisville, KY, 8/17-20, James R. Reid, (630) 789-0204, reids90thdivisionassoc@comcast.net; **95th AAA Gun Bn (1951-1952)**, Reno, NV, 10/10-11, Charles Englehart, (509) 677-3286, srengle@ritzcom.net; **96th Inf Div "Deadeye" Assn**, Denver, 7/25-30, Sam Wood, (803) 547-8026, swood@lcsd.k12.us; **101st Abn Div (Vietnam)**, Fort Campbell, KY, 7/6-9, Doc Feliciano, (315) 439-4266; **163rd Inf Rgt 41st Inf Div (WWII)**, Helena, MT, 9/15-17, (406) 442-5956, jgupshaw@

juno.com; **178th Gen Hosp (Reims, France, Dec 1944-Nov 1945)**, Adolph E. Stec, (516) 285-7505, thestecman@aol.com; **183rd Avn Co "Seahorses" (Vietnam, 1966-1973)**, Washington, 9/7-10, Mack Gibson, (704) 655-8584, mgibson55@adelphia.net; **260th Arty Grp – 260th, 340th & 380th AAA Bns (WWII & Korea)**, Silver Spring, MD, 10/21, E. Wayne Brizendine, (301) 770-7876, ewbriz@aol.com; **328th Inf Cbt Team**, Atlantic City, NJ, 10/17-19, Alex Pagnotta, (610) 539-3337; **390th AAA AW Bn (SP)**, Vancouver, WA, 9/18-20, C. Ray Allen, (509) 922-7695; **503rd Eng Co (Light Equip)**, Branson, MO, 5/7-10, Sherm Mills, (703) 451-7525, sm7409@aol.com; **503rd Reg Cbt Team (WWII)**, Dayton, OH, 9/13-17, Nelson Gatewood, (870) 856-2216; **504th MP Bn**, Arlington, VA, 8/24-27, John Buckley, (703) 868-3573, mikepapa504@yahoo.com; **520th MP Co (Serv)**, Branson, MO, 10/27-30, David W. Brubaker, (570) 265-9647, davidw069@yahoo.com

532nd Eng Boat & Shore Rgt (All Years), Branson, MO, 9/13-16, Jake Harding, (913) 362-0941; **534th Eng Boat & Shore Rgt (WWII)**, Asheville, NC, 10/3-6, Robert P. Jarvis, (313) 823-0854, amphib923@comcast.net; **538th Ord MAM Co (Korea, 1950-1955)**, Carol Stream, IL, 9/11-14, Ann McMahon, (630) 933-9901; **547th MP Bn (Cbt) Assn**, Indianapolis, 8/10-13, Spencer Tunstall, (609) 877-3783; **552nd MP Escort Guard Co**, Bird-In-Hand, PA, 9/15-17, Harry J. Wade, (410) 795-1491; **585th Eng Co (Vietnam)**, San Antonio, 10/6-8, Ken Seymour, (352) 527-3200, eagle585@earthlink.net; **620th & 916th Eng Avn Maint Co (England)**, Branson, MO, 5/1-6, Art Chambers, (903) 665-8815, artandmyra@earthlink.net; **716th MP (Vietnam)**, Omaha, NE, 8/24-27, Duane Hursey, (712) 544-2662, jdeh@fmctc.com

759th Railway Operating Bn Vets (WWII), Oberlin, OH, 9/6-10, Dan Nepi, (856) 809-7398; **765th Trans Railroad Serv Bn (1951-1955)**, Atlanta, 9/10-14, Billy F. Hill, (423) 942-2644; **773rd Tank Dest Bn**, Indianapolis, 10/14-15, Ward Johnson, (574) 943-3376; **836th Eng Avn Bn (WWII)**, Grand Rapids, MI, 9/15-17, Abdou Sickrey, (616) 538-1545; **1019th Eng Treadway Bridge Co (WWII)**, Reno, NV, 10/15-19, R.K. Blackey, (727) 586-2790, rkblackey@aol.com; **A Co 701st MP Bn (Presidio, CA)**, Brush, CO, 9/23-24, Carl H. Strand, (970) 842-2698, bev.strand@twol.com; **Arty OCS (All Classes)**, Fort Sill, OK, 6/14-16, Joe Fleming, (217) 483-6322, jfleming@springnet1.com; **ASA (Field Stn, Okinawa & Torii Stn, 1945-1985)**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/28-10/1, Paul Watson, (978) 465-7473, w562236@aol.com

B Btry 5th Msl Bn (Dexheim, Germany), Branson, MO, 9/10-13, Ray Bice, (937) 332-9126, raybice3@wmconnect.com; **B Co 9th AIB 6th Armd Div**, Staunton, VA, 7/20-23, Eugene Brooks, (540) 377-2408; **Cbt Infantrymen's Assn**, Columbus, GA, 10/12-15, Larry Eckard, (828) 256-6008, combatinfantrymenassc@yahoo.com; **Delta Co 2nd Bn 16th Inf 1st Inf Div (1967-1968)**, Gregory, MI, 7/27-30, Don Dignan, (734) 525-0157, ddignan@peoplepc.com; **Engs of WWII**, Green Bay, WI, Sept, Allie O'Connell, (920) 438-7886; **Persian Gulf Cmt Vets Org (All Units, WWII)**, Warren, OH, 6/21-25, Anna Connelly Wilson, (440) 417-0208, pgcvowwii@aol.com; **Polar Bear WWII Assn**, Branson, MO, 9/24-28, Victoria Anderson, (800) 877-8687, victoria@bransonfun.com

COAST GUARD

327' Cutters– Bibb W 31, Campbell W 32, Duane W 33, Hamilton W 34, Ingham

W 35, Spencer W 36, Taney W 37, Mount Pleasant, SC, 10/5-8, Gordon Bell, (215) 393-6195, 327cutterscele@comcast.net; **Callaway APA 35**, Grantville, PA, 9/18-22, Wallace Shipp, (202) 363-3663; **Co R-4**, Cape May, NJ, 9/28-30, M. Nilsson, (213) 248-0147, mmmnilsson@aol.com; **Courier WAGR 410**, Las Vegas, 5/14-19, Gil Riggs, (505) 287-3338, giltheexplorer@earthlink.net; **Duane**, Hull, MA, 9/21-24, Stan Barnes, sbarnes@metrocast.net

JOINT

Alamo LSD 33, San Diego, 9/14-16, Michael Kaiser, mikeed22000@yahoo.com; **Boxer CV/CVA/CVS 21 & LPH/LHD 4**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/20-24, Lane Wlitschak, (414) 353-1444, lanegayle@ameritech.net; **Guadalcanal Campaign Vets (Aug 1942-Feb 1943)**, Arlington, VA, 8/4-7, Gordon W. Morgan, (503) 254-6848, gcvs@aol.com; **PBY Catalina Intntl Assn (All Hands)**, St. Louis, 10/4-7, Don Mortimer, (631) 298-2685, pbydon@optonline.net; **Ranger CV 4**, Manchester, NH, 9/20-24, Thomas Osmunson, (570) 253-4806, ozofpa@dfnwo.com; **Rockaway W 377**, Wilmington, NC, 10/27-29, Frank Carlsson, (352) 253-0588, adselinc@aol.com

MARINES

1st Bn 9th Mar Network (All Eras), Branson, MO, 9/20-24, Doug Kingsley, (800) 877-8687; **5th Tank Bn 5th Mar Div (Iwo Jima)**, Metropolis, IL, 8/24-26, Al Nelson, (618) 942-4870, anelson@midwest.net; **7th Field Depot, 7th Serv Rgt**, Kalamazoo, MI, 9/20-24, Art Manwaring, (708) 672-5811, artmanw@juno.com; **22nd Mar (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 10/10-14, Jim Reed, (847) 398-4849; **A/1-7 (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Oklahoma City, 10/17-23, Harold Mulhausen, (405) 632-7351, hmuleym@sbcglobal.net; **AB Sqdns 43 & 49**, Willow Grove, PA, 9/23, Chuck McGarlie, (609) 291-9617, col_of_mar_ret@comcast.net; **Air Cont Sqdn 9**, Arlington, VA, 8/9-13, Thomas Boyle, (319) 366-0012, tboyle621@aol.com; **Cbt Correspondents Assn (USMCCA)**, Tysons Corner, VA, 8/30-9/3, Jack T. Paxton, (352) 748-4698, usmcca@cfl.rr.com

Easy Co 2nd Bn 5th Mar (Korea, 1950-1953), Branson, MO, 10/2-6, Dave Shaw, (928) 468-1864, whodat@npgcable.com; **Echo Co 2/3 3rd Mar Div (1965-1969)**, Lubbock, TX, 9/6-10, Don Hinman, (585) 798-0830, echo2367@rochester.rr.com; **Kilo Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar Rgt & Attached Units (Vietnam)**, New Orleans, 8/3-7, Harry Smith, (870) 247-1146, smitty@kilo37.com; **Panama Mars (All Eras)**, Branson, MO, 10/3-5, Chuck Milligan, (704) 847-9314, fireriter@aol.com; **Philippine Sea CV 47**, Mar Det (1946-1958), San Antonio, 8/22-28, Ralph Lund, (215) 345-6430, ralplm@aol.com; **VMD-154 Mar Corps Photo Sqdn**, Austin, TX, 10/5-8, Dallas Willis, (432) 682-2700, dljm@sbcglobal.net; **VMF/VMFA 115**, Laconia, NH, 9/29-30, Lynn Hagen, (320) 269-8925, lynn@maxminn.net; **Women Mar Assn**, Louisville, KY, 9/1-5, Mary Ann Merritt, merrittone@comcast.net

NAVY

2nd, 4th & 7th Nav Beach Bns, Norfolk, VA, 6/24-29, Julius Shoulers, (757) 853-4061, jshoulers@cox.net; **62nd Seabees**, Indianapolis, 9/15-17, Jo Johansen, (303) 949-3944; **Activities (Cartagena, Spain)**, Norfolk, VA, 10/12-14, Joe Cudmore, (817) 265-3867, jcudmore@ev1.net; **Albany CA 123/CG 10/SSN 753**, Panama City, FL, 10/24-29, Waverly Osborne, (850) 774-8806, albanyreunion@ussalbany.org; **Aldebaran AF 10 (1940-1968)**, Norfolk, VA, 9/21-24, Ed

Pepling, (561) 624-2531, edward@pepling.com; **Amsterdam CL 101**, Bushkill, PA, 9/18-21, Leon Stewart Sr., (610) 466-0933; **Altamaha CVE 18**, Portland, ME, 10/12-16, Dave Hoy, (207) 230-0347, ahoyther@adelphia.net; **Aucilla AO 56**, Atlantic City, NJ, 5/1-5, Anthony K. Flynn, (386) 671-1988, tyga141@aol.com; **Bairoko CVE 115**, Cincinnati/Florence, KY, 10/4-8, Dean Brown, (785) 228-1150; **Blandy DD 943**, Philadelphia, 10/13-16, Stanley Jaroszewski, (610) 377-7501, jaro@ptd.net; **Bridge AF 1**, Laughlin, NV, 9/19-21, Frank LaRiviere, (928) 342-3751, ussbridgeaf1@aol.com; **Brinkley Bass DD 887**, San Diego, 8/2-6, Bob Shetron, (626) 335-4034; **Bryce Canyon AD 36**, Baltimore-Annapolis, 10/12-15, Mike Nesbit, (619) 562-5690, thenezce@aol.com; **Canberra CA 70/CAG 2 (All Hands & Mar Det, 1943-1970)**, King of Prussia, PA, 10/11-15, Ken Minick, (740) 423-8976, crewservices@usscanberra.com; **Capitaine SS 336**, Las Vegas, 10/16-18, Gary LaRonge, (775) 751, 9435, saltracer552@juno.com

Carp SS 338, San Diego, 10/12-14, Jim Burkholder, (865) 671-6229, jimburkholder@aol.com; **Chaffee**, Louisville, KY, 9/24-26, Paul R. Jolley, (352) 347-7667, prjalways@aol.com; **Chevalier DD/DDR 805**, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 9/14-16, Bill Hoffman, (913) 651-6433, billthesailor4@hotmail.com; **Clark DD 361**, East Peoria, IL, 9/21-25, Denise Jacobus, (309) 699-0323, denisejacobus@hotmail.com; **Cumberland Sound AV 17**, San Diego, Fall, Roland Jackson, (760) 253-2535, jacks3@verizon.net; **Curtiss AV 4**, Grand Rapids, MI, 9/6-9, John C. Ekstadt, (952) 891-5954, jcekstadt@earthlink.net; **Cushing**, Neenah, WI, 9/14-16, Robert Gauerke, (920) 734-7277; **Deslant Boxing Team (1953-1956)**, Branson, MO, 6/9-10, Victor A. Perez, (407) 298-0873, carpavic@aol.com; **Emory S. Land AS 39**, Virginia Beach, VA, J.R. Black, (757) 583-0284, jrbsmb39@aol.com

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Enoree AO/TAO 69, Springfield, IL, 10/3-7, Floyd A. Carrier, (714) 534-3025; **English DD 696**, Las Vegas, 9/25-28, Raymond J. Ross, (760) 347-2825; **Fleet Air Wing 6**, Tunica, MS, 8/9-10, Mike Hall, (352) 873-3717, cfaw6reunion@yahoo.com; **Fletcher DD/DDE 445/DD 992**, Carson City, NV, 9/17-20, Bob Foss, (804) 458-3295, rfossoc@aol.com; **Flint CL 97**, Grand Forks, ND, 9/14-17, Ann Brown, (701) 780-5269, abrown@altur.org; **Floyd B. Parks DD 884**, Covington, KY, 9/18-25, James Robbins, (530) 283-2165; **Flying Midshipmen Assn**, Pensacola, FL, 5/10-14, Orton Rudd, (800) 964-5955, flyingmidn@rivnet.net; **Francis Marion APA/LPA 249**, Nashville, TN, 10/19-22, Bob Martin, (781) 665-9222, bob@ussfrancis-marion.com; **Fred T. Berry DD/DDE 858**, Jacksonville, FL, 10/12-15, John Tittsworth, (203) 531-6618, skiptonit@aol.com

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MCB-1 (All Eras), Hemlock, NY 7/4 & Las Vegas, 8/11-13, Peter Dowd, (781) 837-0393, mcb1reunion@verizon.net; **MCB-7 Seabees**, Warwick, RI, 8/24-27, Burton Mollohan, (401) 822-0235; **MCB-74 Seabees (Vietnam Era)**, Biloxi-Gulfport, MS, 10/12-15, Bill Christiansen,

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O'Bannon DD/DDE 450/DD 987, Kansas City, MO, 9/13-16, Jay Hilton, (520) 408-9756, jihilton@juno.com; **O'Brien DD 725**, Portland, OR, 9/6-9, Avon R. Blevins, (703) 323-1062; **Oglethorpe AKA 100**, Branson, MO, 10/12-15, Ron Williamson, (908) 475-4435, misty1@epix.net; **Okinawa LPH 3**, Jacksonville, FL, 10/18-22, Robert McAnally, (866) 237-3137, yujack@megalink.net; **PATRON VP-318, VPBH-8 & VPB-108, PB4Y-2 Privateers (1945-1952)**, Las Vegas, 9/12-14, Jim Miller, (816) 761-8724, patronvp28@aol.com; **PBM Mariner/PSM Marlin**, Seattle, 5/9-14, Ron Sommerdorf, (320) 328-5734; **Peiffer DE 588 (WWII)**, Cumberland, MD, 7/26-29, Sheila Crites, (877) 426-4672; **Pictor AF 54**, St. Louis, 9/21-24, John Tollefson, (307) 382-2293, jtollfess@wyoming.com; **Pine Island AV 12 Assn**, San Diego, 10/10-12, Bob Buscher, (785) 582-4460

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COMRADES IN DISTRESS

1348th AAF Base Unit ATC (Chaboa, India, 1943-1944). Fred W. Werman seeks witnesses to verify injuries sustained when his Army 6x6 collided with a train. CID 1484 **NMCB-24 (Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, 1990)**. George Kernaghan seeks witnesses to verify injuries from enemy fire while on convoy duty. CID 1485

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Post 802, CA: Abundio Castro, Elmer Emerson, Edwin Hovatter, William Thomas, Ralph Yuma
Post 807, CA: Bert L. Johnson
Post 1711, NY: William J. Hynes
Post 486, TX: Tirso H. Amesquita
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1st Bn 40th Arty (Dong Ha, Vietnam, Sept 1966-Sept 1967), Roy Baukol, (724) 349-0922
1st Eng Arctic Task Force (1956), Edwin Skidmore, (410) 335-0611
1st Inf Rgt 6th Div (Camp Skipworth, Taegu, Korea, 1947-1948), James Dengel, (941) 721-8296
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6925th Radio Sqdn Mobile (Clark AFB, Philippines, 1960-1961), Ed Oswald, (410) 761-1739, ewoswald9@comcast.net
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Clarence W. Jacobs, Dept. of Alabama. Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Vice Chmn. 1991-1997, Dept. Cmdr. 1996-1997, Nat'l Homeland Sec. & Civil Preparedness Cmte. Memb. 1997-1999, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1999-2002, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1998-2002, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2002-2003 and 2005-2006, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2002-2006, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1999-2000 and 2001-2006, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2002-2005 and Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2003-2005.
William S. Lombardo, Dept. of France. Nat'l Cmsn. on Children & Youth Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1983-1985, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1982-1988, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1982-1983, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1986-1987, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1977-1978 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1987-1988.
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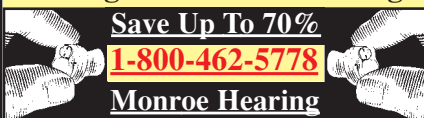
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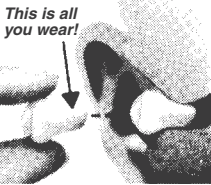
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parting shots

A waist is a terrible thing to mind.

ON HIS FIRST VISIT to the city zoo, a little boy stared at the caged stork for a long time. Finally, he turned to his father and asked, "Dad, why doesn't he recognize me?"

A WOMAN WAITED in the check-out line at a grocery store, her arms full with a mop, a broom and other cleaning supplies. By her deep sighs, it was obvious she was in a hurry and was unhappy about the slow pace of the line.

When the cashier called for a price check on an item, the woman muttered under her breath, "I'll be lucky to get out of here and home before Christmas!"

"Don't worry, ma'am," the clerk replied. "With the wind kicking up out there and your new broom, you'll be home in no time."

A MAN VISITED the doctor's office for his annual checkup, and the doctor asked if there was anything unusual he should know about.

"Well," the man replied, "I find it strange how my Sunday suit has shrunk just sitting in the closet. Recently I went to a wedding, and when I tried on the suit it didn't fit."

"Suits don't shrink just sittin' there," the doctor said. "You probably just put on a few pounds."

"That's just it, doc. I know I haven't gained a single pound since the last time I wore it."

"Well, then, you must have a case of furniture disease."

"What in the world is furniture disease?"

"It's when you reach that stage in life when your chest starts sliding down into your drawers."



"The doctor said you'll regain use of everything but your money."



"And here's your \$100 bonus for coming up with the idea on how to eliminate your job."



"I'm a man, honey. I have no idea what mauve is."

BY THE TIME Jim arrived at the football game, the first half was almost over. "Why are you so late?" his friend asked.

"I had to toss a coin to decide between going to church and coming to the game," he replied.

"How long could that have taken you?"

"Well, I had to toss it 14 times."

DURING TRAINING EXERCISES, a lieutenant driving down a muddy back road encountered another vehicle, stuck in the mud with a red-faced colonel at the wheel.

"Your vehicle stuck, sir?" the lieutenant asked as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," the colonel replied, getting out and handing him the keys. "Yours is."



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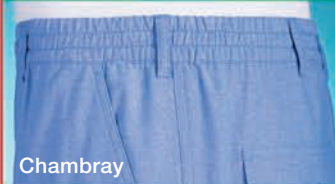
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